

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

IN TRIBUTE TO REPRESENTATIVE
JOHN P. MURTHA OF PENNSYLVANIA

SPEECH OF

HON. ROSA L. DeLAURO

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 24, 2010

Ms. DELAURO. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay my respects to a tireless champion for soldiers, veterans, and the middle class, a venerable lion of this body, and a treasured friend, Congressman Jack Murtha.

The first Vietnam veteran ever elected to the House of Representatives, Congressman Murtha dedicated his career to America's fighting men and women, and always worked to put our troops and their safety first. I consistently relied on his wisdom and his insights on matters of defense and national security.

From his position as Chairman of the Defense Appropriations Committee, Jack's extraordinary dedication to the well-being of our troops and their families was evident in his actions every day. He knew that keeping our soldiers out of harm's way meant providing them with state-of-the-art equipment, from submarines to helicopters. And with that in mind, he helped to maintain a defense-industrial base that brought high-paying, high-skilled manufacturing jobs both to his home state of Pennsylvania and my own state of Connecticut. His legacy will live on not only in his service to military men and women, but through the millions of jobs he helped to create in our region.

Jack was also concerned with the well-being of Americans waging another kind of battle, and he always supported critical funding for research on diseases such as cancer, AIDS, and diabetes. In short, he was a great ally to Connecticut, a great Pennsylvanian, and a great American, and he will be deeply missed. This House is smaller after his passing.

HONORING EDWARD BALOIAN

HON. GEORGE RADANOVICH

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 25, 2010

Mr. RADANOVICH. Madam Speaker, I rise today to commend and congratulate Edward "Ed" Baloian upon being awarded with the Ag One "2010 Community Salute." Mr. Baloian will be recognized on Saturday, February 27, 2010 at the Ag One event benefitting the Jordan College of Agricultural Science and Technology at California State University, Fresno.

In 1923, Ed Baloian's father, Charles, started a full-service produce business, Charles Baloian Company, Inc. In 1945, upon returning home from serving their country in World War II, Ed and his brother, James, joined their father as partners in the family business.

In 1965, the Baloians formed Pam Pak Distributors, Inc., to package and market fresh

vegetables from a large number of local growers. Ed Baloian took on the responsibility of managing the operations at Pam Pak Distributors. Just three years later, in an effort to increase their annual business and to supply the rising local demand for their products, Pam Pak began its own farming operation.

Mr. James Baloian retired from the family business in 1985, and later that year, Mr. Baloian and his son, Tim, started a new branch to the company, Baloian Packing. This new business continued the efforts of Pam Pak, their number one label, and included Marty Boy, Balo and Valley Jewels. With the increased business, Mr. Ed Baloian was elected Chairman of the Board and Mr. Tim Baloian was elected President of the Board of Pam Pak Distributors.

Today, the company continues to be headquartered in Fresno, California. Under Mr. Baloian's leadership the company has grown to include a majority of the San Joaquin Valley, with extensions into Mexico and Chile. The company is a leading California fresh fruit and vegetable grower, shipper and packer. The company specializes in bell peppers, lettuce, eggplant, red onions, melons and squash. The company ships these products to grocery stores, restaurants and food service customers around the United States and Canada.

Outside of the farming and shipping industry, Mr. Baloian is very active in Rotary, is a Paul Harris Fellow and has served on the council at Peoples Church in Fresno, California. Recently, Mr. Baloian accepted the Central California Excellence in Business Award on behalf of his company.

Madam Speaker, I rise today to commend and congratulate Edward Baloian upon being awarded with the Ag One "2010 Community Salute" for his tremendous support of the agriculture community. I invite my colleagues to join me in wishing Mr. Baloian many years of continued success.

CONGRATULATING THE LAPORTE
FAMILY YMCA ON ITS 100TH AN-
NIVERSARY

HON. JOE DONNELLY

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 25, 2010

Mr. DONNELLY of Indiana. Madam Speaker, today I rise to honor the LaPorte Family YMCA, celebrating its 100th anniversary of serving the people of LaPorte and the surrounding communities.

For 100 years, the LaPorte Family YMCA has offered a variety of resources to its members. Its dedicated administrators, volunteers and community partners work tirelessly to uphold the organization's mission to promote positive values, investment in community, and mental, physical, and spiritual well-being.

Founded on December 9, 1908, it took LaPorte citizens less than 2 weeks to raise the

bulk of the \$65,000 necessary for the construction of the original YMCA facility. This building was completed in 1911. Since that time, the original YMCA building in LaPorte has undergone numerous renovations and additions. Finally, in 1995, the LaPorte YMCA was expanded to its current size of 11,000 sq. ft., which encompasses a teen center, weight room, pool, and a child care center.

As an evolving organization, the YMCA seeks to adapt to the community's needs while promoting family values. The LaPorte Family YMCA remains committed to the original mission of the organization to respond to the needs of the surrounding community. Today, the LaPorte Family YMCA continues to successfully fulfill this mission by providing quality services stressing literacy, safe child care and healthy lifestyle choices. These programs are not only well managed and effectively run but are also vital to the community at large and the YMCA's effort to make a difference in the community "one child, one senior, one family at a time."

So today, on behalf of the citizens of the Second District, I would like to congratulate the dedicated administrative personnel and community volunteers who make the LaPorte Family YMCA such an upstanding organization and outstanding resource for LaPorte and the surrounding communities.

HONORING PHYLLIS HICKS

HON. LEE TERRY

OF NEBRASKA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 25, 2010

Mr. TERRY. Madam Speaker, it is my pleasure to rise today during Black History Month to remember the important contributions African Americans have made to our nation. I especially honor the extraordinary people who continue to help shape my community of Omaha and our great nation. Among the thousands of successful and talented African Americans in the second congressional district of Nebraska, I would like to pay special tribute to Phyllis Hicks.

Since 1967, Mrs. Hicks has run the Salem Stepping Saints Drill Team in Omaha and continues to be a volunteer and chief fundraiser for this youth group, which not only teaches young people drill skills, but also provides them with mentoring, tutoring and counseling. Through her outreach, she has helped many youths overcome barriers, especially discrimination. Phyllis is active in the NAACP, Black Business Women's Council and Urban League. She currently serves as marketing director for the Omaha Star Newspaper, Nebraska's largest African-American newspaper. Mrs. Hicks remains active, serving on several community boards, and her dedication to improving our community is recognized and appreciated.

Thank you, Phyllis Hicks, for your commitment to making the world a better place. Your

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.

participation in our community has made a difference to thousands of people, especially our youth.

HONORING SABRINA MORALES, PRISCILLA KING, LAKEITHA LYLES, AND DIANA EDOUARD FOR WINNING THE HONORING OUR FUTURE LEADERS COMPETITION

HON. STEVE ISRAEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 25, 2010

Mr. ISRAEL. Madam Speaker, I rise today to acknowledge four students in my district, Sabrina Morales, Priscilla King, Lakeitha Lyles, and Diana Edouard, from Wyandanch Memorial High School.

These students will receive the Honoring Our Future Leaders Award on February 27, 2010. To win this award, they wrote their own rendition of the "I Have a Dream" speech delivered by Martin Luther King, Jr.

I am proud to honor Sabrina, Priscilla, Lakeitha, and Diana for their academic and personal achievements and congratulate them upon the receipt of this prestigious award.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JUDY BIGGERT

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 25, 2010

Mrs. BIGGERT. Madam Speaker, I was absent from votes on Monday, February 22, 2010. The House considered two bills under suspension of the rules. Had I been present, I would have voted "yea" for rollcall 49 and "yea" for rollcall 50.

COMMEMORATION OF TAIWAN'S "2-28 MASSACRE"

HON. SCOTT GARRETT

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 25, 2010

Mr. GARRETT of New Jersey. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the 63th commemoration of Taiwan's "2-28 Massacre." In the Fall of 1945, 50 years of Japanese occupation of Taiwan ended with World War II. The United Nations gave administrative control of Taiwan to the Chinese Nationalist Party. After more than a year, the Taiwanese people were frustrated by the corruption and economic mismanagement that seemed to plague the party.

On February 28, 1947, an elderly woman was arrested and beaten. A group of Taiwanese confronted the Chinese troops responsible. One of the Taiwanese was shot, riots raged, and Chinese soldiers gunned down thousands of unarmed civilians.

During the following days, government troops arrived from mainland China. The Chinese soldiers began capturing and executing leading Taiwanese lawyers, doctors, students, and other citizens. It is estimated more than

18,000 people lost their lives. During the following four decades, the Chinese Nationalists continued to rule Taiwan with an iron fist under Martial Law that was not lifted until 1987.

The Massacre had far reaching implications. Over the next half-century, these events helped galvanize Taiwan's struggle for independence and for its transformation from a dictatorship to a thriving and pluralistic democracy.

I urge other Members to join me in commemorating this important historical event.

HONORING KELLY WEINSENSEEL FOR WINNING THE HONORING OUR FUTURE LEADERS COMPETITION

HON. STEVE ISRAEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 25, 2010

Mr. ISRAEL. Madam Speaker, I rise today to acknowledge a student in my district, Kelly Weinsenseel, from West Babylon High School.

Kelly will receive the Honoring Our Future Leaders Award on February 27, 2010. To win this award, she wrote her own rendition of the "I Have a Dream" speech delivered by Martin Luther King, Jr.

I am proud to honor Kelly for her academic and personal achievements and congratulate her upon the receipt of this prestigious award.

CORPORAL JACOB HENRY TURBETT

HON. THADDEUS G. McCOTTER

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 25, 2010

Mr. McCOTTER. Madam Speaker, today I rise to honor Corporal Jacob Henry Turbett, a courageous and noble Marine, who died on February 13 at the age of 21. Corporal Turbett lost his life while bravely supporting combat operations in the Helmand Province, Afghanistan.

Corporal Turbett was a member of the Second Combat Engineer Battalion, Second Marine Division, II Marine Expeditionary Force based in Camp Lejeune, North Carolina. He was a 2007 graduate of Canton High School and took part in Civil Air Patrol. He came from a celebrated military family. His grandfather, cousin and two of his uncles were in the Marines. His uncle was in the Navy and his sister, Jaime Turbett, started boot camp in the Navy only ten days before her brother was killed. Corporal Turbett followed in these proud footsteps by completing tours of duty in Bangladesh and Iraq. Additionally, he was stationed in Okinawa, Japan. He was a hard worker, a proud and brave American, and a loving husband to his wife Crystal, whom he married in July 2008. Along with his wife and sister he is survived by his mother, Sheila, his father, Richard and his brother, Joe Marsh, who is a sheriff's deputy in Humboldt County, California.

Corporal Turbett sacrificed everything for his country in Operation Enduring Freedom. To his fellow soldiers, his family and friends, and

to everyone who knew and loved him, he was a dedicated member of his community who answered the higher calling to serve his country.

Madam Speaker, during his lifetime, Corporal Turbett enriched the lives of everyone around him by employing energy, leadership, and courage in everything he set out to do. As we bid farewell to this exceptional individual, I ask my colleagues to join me in remembering and honoring his contributions and years of devoted service to his community and our country.

HONORING THE ORGAN PIPE CACTUS NATIONAL MONUMENT FOR BEING RECOGNIZED BY THE INTERMOUNTAIN REGION'S WILDERNESS STEWARDSHIP AWARDS PROGRAM

HON. RAÚL M. GRIJALVA

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 25, 2010

Mr. GRIJALVA. Madam Speaker, I rise today honor the employees of Organ Pipe Cactus National Monument. The staff of Organ Pipe Cactus National Monument has been recognized by the Intermountain Region's Wilderness Stewardship Awards Program with the top award for 2009 as true Wilderness Champions.

Organ Pipe Cactus National Monument covers 330,689 acres and, of that acreage, 95 percent is designated wilderness. Founded in 1937, the employees of this National Monument have continuously monitored and evaluated the land use and local environment. President Franklin D. Roosevelt preserved this land for its scenic views but also for its ecological wonders. Having been occupied by American Indians, Mexicans and Europeans the diverse history of this land makes it valuable around the globe. In addition, in 1976 the United Nations bestowed the title of International Biosphere Reserve on Organ Pipe Cactus National Monument further confirming not only its local importance, but its value internationally. Twenty-six species of cactus flourish in the harsh conditions, as well as many species of birds, lizards, bats and rodents. They all delicately coexist in this wonderful ecosystem.

Until the 1970s, this land was used for ranching and mining, making the jobs of the current staff challenging. Catching up with the damage done during these times has proven to be the stimulus for all the wonderful projects taken on by the employees at Organ Pipe. Most notable is the Organ Pipe Cactus National Monument Ecological Monitoring Program. This program has been diligently working since 1997 to monitor and evaluate critical aspects of the region. From reporting changes in the ecosystem, to documenting damage to the land by neighboring developers, this program has proven vital to the stability of the National Monument, as well as to the ecosystem of Southern Arizona.

Organ Pipe Cactus National Monument is also a vital part of the community and offers guided tours, hiking, camping, excellent birding and plenty of beautiful picnic areas. Organ Pipe also offers wonderful educational opportunities through student field trips and its

participation in the VIEWS program through the National Park Service.

The men and women employed at Organ Pipe monitor this delicate ecosystem while still preserving this beautiful area. The staff take bi-annual photos in eight different areas to monitor land use and development along the Mexico border, annually monitor spring and summer lizards and their habits in the Sonoran Desert, and have set up an annual climate monitoring system for which the data are all reported into their ORPI Ecological Monitoring Report. Through the staff's efforts, the stability of this wonderful, natural resource is protected.

The employees of Organ Pipe Cactus National Monument who have been honored with this award truly deserve it. They are vital players in the protection of America's wild lands. As a member of the House Committee on Natural Resources and, having seen our community grow to over a million people during my lifetime, I know the importance of protecting these delicate areas. It gives me great joy to see such wonderful people giving of themselves to preserve and protect this spectacular region of Southern Arizona.

HONORING MS. DEBRA GABEL

HON. BRIAN HIGGINS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 25, 2010

Mr. HIGGINS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the years of service given to the people of Chautauqua County by Ms. Debra Gabel. Ms. Gabel served her constituency faithfully and justly during her tenure as the Cherry Creek tax collector.

Public service is a difficult and fulfilling career. Any person with a dream may enter but only a few are able to reach the end. Ms. Gabel served her term with her head held high and a smile on her face the entire way. I have no doubt that her kind demeanor left a lasting impression on the people of Chautauqua County.

We are truly blessed to have such strong individuals with a desire to make this county the wonderful place that we all know it can be. Ms. Gabel is one of those people and that is why Madam Speaker I rise to pay tribute to her today.

PRISONERS OF CONSCIENCE IN CUBA

HON. ALBIO SIRE

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 25, 2010

Mr. SIRE. Madam Speaker, I rise today to share my deep sadness over the loss of a Cuban prisoner of conscience, Orlando Zapata Tamayo, held by the Cuban regime.

Orlando Zapata Tamayo was first arrested in March 2003 for participating in a hunger strike to demand the release of Dr. Oscar Biscet and other prisoners of conscience. Since his initial arrest and unwarranted imprisonment, the regime consistently increased Zapata's prison term up to 47 years.

While in prison, Zapata endured frequent beatings and unimaginable living conditions.

On December 3, 2009, Mr. Zapata began a hunger strike to protest the human rights violations and the repeated beatings by the Cuban authorities. After an 83-day hunger strike, Orlando Zapata Tamayo passed away on Tuesday, February 23, 2010.

In mourning the death of Orlando Zapata Tamayo, I urge my colleagues to listen to his message of freedom and respect for human life. As the atrocities he fought against remain the reality of Cuba today, we must continue to fight for human rights and the release of all political prisoners.

In light of this tragic death, it is important to recognize the hundreds of activists and prisoners of conscience that continue to risk their freedoms and their lives in Cuba. One such man, Normando Hernandez Gonzalez, was also arrested in the massive crackdown on suspected dissidents in March of 2003. Mr. Hernandez was sentenced to 25 years in prison. While serving this term, his health has deteriorated significantly and he continues to suffer from several life-threatening ailments. I am very concerned for his well-being, and along with the international human rights community, I plead for his immediate release and the release of every wrongly imprisoned Cuban.

IN HONOR OF MAURICE GROSSMAN

HON. RAÚL M. GRIJALVA

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 25, 2010

Mr. GRIJALVA. Madam Speaker, it is my pleasure to rise today to honor Maurice Grossman, one of Tucson's true treasures, who passed away January 21st at the age of 82.

Maurice was beloved by many who knew him, not just for his art but for his dedication to human rights and the Democratic Party.

A retired art professor from the University of Arizona, Maurice Grossman spent his life as a ceramic artist, activist and a leader in the Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender community.

Maurice served in the Navy during World War II, before attending Wayne State University in Detroit. After attending and teaching at other universities, he traveled to Japan as a Fulbright scholar, then finally to Tucson to teach.

The founder of the University of Arizona's ceramics program in 1955, Maurice received several prestigious awards during his career, including a National Endowment for the Arts grant in 1986 and the UA's Creative Teaching Award. Maurice's commitment to supporting other artists' was unflagging and genuine. He would invariably turn up at openings and contribute his works to galleries, both big and small.

Always the activist, Maurice single-handedly took it upon himself to register people to vote. He felt that it was his duty to make sure that everyone, regardless of background, had a voice. When he retired in 1989, he became more involved in the effort to help fight discrimination against the LGBT community.

Maurice was quoted in a 2004 article as saying, "It's not just about equal rights for us. It's about equal rights for everyone. Do we want to take a step forward or a step back?"

Maurice never stepped back. He was an extraordinary man and a true individual. His role

as an activist for equality and human rights will not soon be forgotten.

I was privileged to know Maurice personally. Always enthusiastic, I could count on not only his support but his passion. His dedication to the community was never-ending.

Madam Speaker, I rise to honor Maurice Grossman and thank him for being a role model for so many of us.

RETIREMENT OF MR. LEW STULTS

HON. HOWARD P. "BUCK" McKEON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 25, 2010

Mr. McKEON. Madam Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the retirement of Lew Stults, who graciously served as my District Director for the past 12 years, representing the needs of constituents in the 25th Congressional District of California. A 53-year resident of the Antelope Valley, Lew first began working for me in 1998 and was a direct liaison to residents, schools, businesses, city and county government officials, civic organizations, and the local aerospace industry.

Lew was an integral part of my most senior staff, forging relationships and addressing issues that significantly and positively impacted Southern California. He became such a beloved figure that he was oftentimes referred to as the "Congressman of Palmdale."

Lew arrived in the Antelope Valley at the age of 10 in 1957, when his family relocated from Portland, Maine. He attended elementary and middle schools in the Lancaster School District and graduated from Antelope Valley High School in 1965. He first attended Antelope Valley College in the fall of 1965, but interrupted his education to join the U.S. Navy in 1966. Lew is a Vietnam veteran who served in an airborne photographic reconnaissance squadron. After his 4-year service in the Navy, Lew returned to the Antelope Valley and again attended Antelope Valley College.

He has had a long and distinguished career in sales and marketing, and was elected twice to two 4-year terms on the Board of Trustees for the Lancaster School District. In 1993 Lew became the founding President of the Lancaster Education Foundation, a non-profit corporation raising money for children in the Lancaster School District. He is a long-time member of Lancaster West Rotary Club and is a Past President of the Antelope Valley Board of Trade.

It has been my absolute honor to have Lew Stults as a senior advisor and staff member for more than a decade. He is a tremendous man of warm humor, quick wit, and great integrity.

I congratulate Lew on his retirement and wish him and his wife of 42 years, Karen Stults, prosperity in all future endeavors.

THE KHOJALY TRAGEDY

HON. BILL SHUSTER

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 25, 2010

Mr. SHUSTER. Madam Speaker, one of our greatest strengths as elected officials is the

opportunity to bring to light truths that are little known and command recognition.

Today, as the cochairman of the House Azerbaijan Caucus, I would like to bring to the attention of this body the tragedy that took place in Khojaly, Azerbaijan, a town and townspeople that were destroyed on February 26, 1992.

At the time, the Khojaly tragedy was widely covered by the international media, including the Boston Globe, Washington Post, New York Times, Financial Times, and many other European and Russian news agencies.

Fifteen years later, there is little attention or interest paid to the plight of Khojaly outside of Azerbaijan.

Sadly, Khojaly, a town in the Nagorno-Karabakh region of Azerbaijan, now under the control of Armenian forces, was the site of the largest killing of ethnic Azerbaijani civilians. With a population of approximately 7,000, Khojaly was one of the largest urban settlements of the Nagorno-Karabakh region of Azerbaijan.

According to Human Rights Watch and other international observers the massacre was committed by the ethnic Armenian armed forces, reportedly with the help of the Russian 366th Motor Rifle Regiment. Human Rights Watch described the Khojaly Massacre as "the largest massacre to date in the conflict" over Nagorno-Karabakh. In a 1993 report, the watchdog group stated "there are no exact figures for the number of Azeri civilians killed because Karabakh Armenian forces gained control of the area after the massacre" and "while it is widely accepted that 200 Azeris were murdered, as many as 500-1,000 may have died."

At the time, Newsweek Magazine reported: "Azerbaijan was a charnel house again last week: a place of mourning refugees and dozens of mangled corpses dragged to a makeshift morgue behind the mosque. They were ordinary Azerbaijani men, women and children of Khojaly, a small village in war-torn Nagorno-Karabakh overrun by Armenian forces on 25–26 February. Many were killed at close range while trying to flee; some had their faces mutilated, others were scalped."

Time Magazine stated "While the details are argued, this much is plain: something grim and unconscionable happened in the Azerbaijani town of Khojaly two weeks ago. So far, some 200 dead Azerbaijanis, many of them mutilated, have been transported out of the town tucked inside the Armenian-dominated enclave of Nagorno-Karabakh for burial in neighboring Azerbaijan. The total number of deaths—the Azerbaijanis claim 1,324 civilians have been slaughtered, most of them women and children—is unknown."

Azerbaijan has been a strong strategic partner and friend of the United States. The tragedy of Khojaly was a crime against humanity and I urge my colleagues to join me in standing with Azerbaijanis as they commemorate this tragedy.

A TRIBUTE TO ALAN AND NANCY BRODOVSKY FOR THEIR DEDICATION TO EDUCATION EXCELLENCE

HON. JERRY LEWIS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 25, 2010

Mr. LEWIS of California. Madam Speaker, I would like to pay tribute today to Alan and Nancy Brodovsky, who are widely known for their community service in Sacramento, California, and especially for their devotion to education excellence.

Madam Speaker, I became aware of and made many friends in the Sacramento Jewish community as a result of a decade in the legislature and through family connections. I have always been impressed by the vibrancy and commitment of the volunteers in our state capital, and have maintained strong ties with my friends there.

Alan Brodovsky is a Sacramento native who has been among the most active in giving his time to the community. He has been particularly involved in supporting the establishment and growth of the Shalom School, the only Jewish Day School in Sacramento. He has spent 25 years in leadership positions on the board of trustees. He was also instrumental in forming an advisory board to establish, build, and manage the investments for Shalom School's endowment program.

Mr. Brodovsky has been a volunteer leader of the greater community in many ways, serving on the board of trustees of Mosaic Law Congregation, three years as president. He is currently a member of its foundation board. He is a trustee and treasurer of Hillel of Davis and Sacramento, vice president of the Trust Fund for Jewish Elderly. He has served on the board of the Jewish Community Foundation of the West, the JCRC, and is the past president of the Sacramento Junior Chamber.

Nancy Brodovsky has been a force in the Sacramento community since she married Alan and moved there in 1985. She has also been president of the board of trustees of Shalom School, and has served as a trustee for the Crocker Art Museum, FamiliesFirst, Mosaic Law Congregation, TDX, the National Breast Cancer Fund, Sacramento Jewish Federation, Sacramento Country Day School and the advisory board of Breakthrough Sacramento.

Perhaps her most high-profile role has been as the chairman of the board of directors of the M.I.N.D. Institute at University of California, Davis. The M.I.N.D. Institute is a collaborative international research center, committed to the awareness, understanding, prevention, care and cure of neurodevelopmental disorders, the most well-known of which is autism. In addition to being intimately involved in setting the course of the institute, Nancy has organized and overseen annual fund-raising events that have raised hundreds of thousands of dollars for the program.

Madam Speaker, Alan and Nancy Brodovsky have raised two fine sons even as they have devoted their time and efforts to their community. In tribute to their years of dedication, the Brodovskys will be honored by the Shalom School in March. I ask you and my colleagues to join me in commending them for their community work and wish them well in their future endeavors.

NATIVE HAWAIIAN GOVERNMENT REORGANIZATION ACT OF 2009

SPEECH OF

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 23, 2010

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 2314, the Native Hawaiian Government Reorganization Act, as well as the Abercrombie Amendment, and I thank my good friend Mr. ABERCROMBIE for his diligent work on this bill.

H.R. 2314 is long overdue. Since 1959, when Hawaii was admitted to the Union as our 50th state, Hawaiian home lands—lands to which native Hawaiians are legally entitled—have been administered by the state government of Hawaii in trust with the federal government.

H.R. 2314 simply provides a process for establishing a Native Hawaiian governing entity that would represent the interests of Native Hawaiians in negotiations with the federal and state governments. It would also grant the Native Hawaiian governing entity sovereign immunity—the same authority granted to other native Indian governments.

This bill is about empowerment. Native Hawaiians deserve to be able to advocate for their self-interest in negotiations with the state and federal government.

This bill is about self-determination. Native Hawaiians deserve a say in the welfare and future of their community.

I have visited Hawaii many times, and the people of Hawaii are near and dear to my heart. They have a rich culture and a beautiful heritage that they carry on to this day. They deserve a say in their future, and they deserve an equitable remedy to their past treatment.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. DENNIS MOORE

OF KANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 25, 2010

Mr. MOORE of Kansas. Madam Speaker, on February 22, 2010, due to weather delays on my flight from Kansas City, I did not cast a recorded vote on H.R. 4425 or H.R. 4238. If I had voted, I would have voted "yes" on both.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO THE BUENOS AIRES NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE

HON. RAÚL M. GRIJALVA

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 25, 2010

Mr. GRIJALVA. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to all the staff at the Buenos Aires National Wildlife Refuge. The Refuge consists of a beautiful 118,000 acres of mountains, riparian zones, and grasslands in the Southern Arizona desert and contains majestic areas such as Brown Canyon, Arivaca Cienega and the Baboquivari Mountains.

The Buenos Aires National Wildlife Refuge is a sanctuary for many different types of wildlife including the Pima pineapple cactus, the

pygmy-owl and the endangered masked bobwhite quail. Additionally, 325 bird species, 53 species of reptiles and amphibians, 58 mammal species, including mule deer, white-tailed deer, pronghorn, javelina, and mountain lions all call the Refuge home. Without the protection of the Refuge, many of these species would disappear and be lost to us forever. The Refuge is also a vital part of the community and offers guided tours, hiking, camping, horseback riding, mountain biking, excellent birding, and plenty of beautiful picnic areas. The Refuge even offers wonderful educational opportunities through volunteer projects and nature workshops.

The men and women employed at the Refuge work tirelessly to preserve this beautiful area. Through their efforts, the Refuge has successfully reintroduced the endangered bobwhite quail and the pronghorn deer into the wild and ensures their continued protection. These people are truly the guardians of an environmental treasure and view their task as a privilege, not just a job.

In addition to the wonderful staff at the Refuge, an exemplary group of volunteers known as the Friends of the Buenos Aires National Refuge dedicate their time to the community education conservation, and preservation of this wonderful land. This non-profit group gives selflessly to promote the goals of the Refuge and with the help of the Refuge staff; they recently held the 1st Annual Grasslands Fair to celebrate this beloved land.

The Buenos Aires National Wildlife Refuge, its staff, and the volunteers who dedicate their time are all truly valued players in the protection of America's wild lands. Being a member of the House Committee on Natural Resources and having seen our community grow to over a million people, during my lifetime, I know the importance of protecting areas like the Buenos Aires National Wildlife Refuge. It gives me great joy to see such wonderful people giving of themselves to preserve and protect this spectacular region of Southern Arizona.

RECOGNITION OF STEFANIE SPIELMAN

HON. MARY JO KILROY

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 25, 2010

Ms. KILROY. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Stefanie Spielman, a dedicated activist who fought to increase funding for breast cancer research and raise awareness about the disease. Stefanie was diagnosed with breast cancer in 1998, survived four bouts of cancer and worked tirelessly to raise awareness about the vital role routine examinations play for women. Stefanie's death in November 2009 was a tragic loss for her family and the Columbus community, but her legacy will live on.

After her diagnosis, it became Stefanie's life mission to raise money for breast cancer awareness and research. Her initial efforts were focused locally. Her neighborhood grocery store asked shoppers to purchase paper footballs, the donations from which would be given to the Arthur G. James Cancer Hospital. The response was overwhelming. Within six months donations totaled \$1 million, far ex-

ceeding the initial goal of \$250,000. Inspired by this outpouring of support, Stefanie established the Stefanie Spielman Fund for Breast Cancer Research and Stefanie's Champions, an annual awards program recognizing those whose love, dedication and strength have had a powerful impact on the lives of cancer survivors. Stefanie's fundraising efforts continued over the next twelve years and at the time of her death, the Stefanie Spielman Fund for Breast Cancer Research had raised over \$6.5 million for breast cancer research, education, and patient assistance. Stefanie also helped establish the Stefanie Spielman Patient Assistance Fund, which provides financial support to breast cancer patients and their families who are experiencing financial hardships. Through these efforts, Stefanie has touched the lives of countless individuals and families who have struggled with breast cancer.

The Upper Arlington Historical Society and the city of Upper Arlington have chosen Stefanie Spielman as one of the 2010 inductees to the Upper Arlington Wall of Honor. Each year, the Historical Society and the city select members of the community who have demonstrated outstanding achievement and personal character, or provided valuable service to the community. The induction ceremony will be held on May 23, 2010, in honor of Stefanie, her contributions to Upper Arlington, Columbus, and the search for a cure for breast cancer. I am proud to honor Stefanie Spielman, whose leadership and courage in the fight against breast cancer in the Columbus and greater Ohio area has been and continues to be an inspiration.

EXPRESSING APPRECIATION FOR REPRESENTATIVE DALE KILDEE

SPEECH OF

HON. THOMAS E. PETRI

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 23, 2010

Mr. PETRI. Mr. Speaker, I want to acknowledge one of our most devoted and respected colleagues, Representative DALE KILDEE, and congratulate him on the casting of his historic 20,000th vote in the U.S. House of Representatives. For those of us in this chamber who have been fortunate enough to work with the gentleman from Michigan, such a remarkable achievement comes as no surprise.

As my colleagues have justly pointed out, it is not only the quantity of votes that makes this feat remarkable, but it is the consistency with which he has cast them that proves to be especially noteworthy. Missing only 27 votes since 1977 is a reflection of the pride and seriousness he takes in representing the people of Michigan's Fifth District.

Since entering Congress, I have had the honor of serving with Mr. KILDEE on the Education and Labor Committee. He brings the same work ethic to the committee as he has on the floor of the House.

Representative KILDEE has set a standard here in Congress that most will not replicate, but it will indeed continue to inspire and serve as an example for me and his other colleagues in the House. Once again, I send my congratulations on this historic achievement and thank Representative KILDEE for his service to his district in Michigan and to this institution.

TRIBUTE TO LIEUTENANT GENERAL LARRY DODGEN

HON. ROBERT B. ADERHOLT

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 25, 2010

Mr. ADERHOLT. Madam Speaker, I would like to offer my condolences to the family of LTG Larry Dodgen, former head of the Army's Aviation and Missile Command at Redstone Arsenal.

On February 20, 2010, I along with many others across the State and Nation were saddened to hear of the passing of Retired LTG Larry Dodgen.

Dodgen served in the U.S. Army from 1972 to 2006. He was awarded the Defense Distinguished Service Medal, the Legion of Merit with two oak leaf clusters, the Meritorious Service Medal with four oak leaf clusters, the Army Commendation Medal and the Army Achievement Medal.

Lieutenant General Dodgen served as the Commanding General of the U.S. Army Aviation and Missile Command, near Huntsville, Alabama, from September 10, 2001, to December 16, 2003.

After retiring from the Army in 2006, Lieutenant General Dodgen worked as sector vice president and deputy general manager of the Missile Defense Division within Northrop Grumman's Mission Systems sector.

Lieutenant General Dodgen will be remembered for his outstanding leadership, effective communication, and for making safety and security the top priority for both his troops and their families. It was an honor to work with him, and I know he was well-liked and respected throughout Congress.

Our thoughts and prayers are with his wife Leslie and her family and friends.

RECOGNIZING AND THANKING AMERICAN ENTREPRENEURS

HON. ADRIAN SMITH

OF NEBRASKA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 25, 2010

Mr. SMITH of Nebraska. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the men and women who are striving to realize the American dream and who will be integral in our economy's recovery. This week we are recognizing and thanking American small businesses and the entrepreneurs behind them.

Entrepreneurs are a key component to our Nation's economy now more than ever. They are responsible for the creation of two-thirds of all new jobs each year, and their small businesses comprise more than 97 percent of all employers in the United States—nearly 30 million businesses in all.

Entrepreneurs are important for the entire nation, but in Nebraska they are vital. In the most recent report from the Small Business Administration, Nebraska has an estimated 163,077 small businesses which employed more than 50 percent of the non-farm private labor force, bringing in \$6.7 billion in income. Quite simply, we need small businesses and entrepreneurs. They deserve our support and recognition as they work to rebuild our economy.

All too often there is a tendency to rely on the government to create wealth and prosperity when, in reality, these are created in the private sector by risk-taking entrepreneurial Americans with ideas, innovation, and their own hard work.

RECOGNITION OF CINDY DYAS

HON. MARY JO KILROY

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 25, 2010

Ms. KILROY. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Cindy Dyas, a strong, inspirational woman who fought to raise awareness for breast cancer as well as the care of patients suffering from the illness. Cindy, diagnosed with breast cancer in 1991, was instrumental in bringing both issues to the forefront in the Columbus community.

Cindy Dyas played an integral role in bringing the Susan G. Komen Race for the Cure to Columbus. Since the inaugural race in 1993, the number of participants has grown from 800 to 47,000 and has raised \$13 million in support of Ohio cancer research. Currently the Columbus Race for the Cure ranks in the top 10 for participation among Race for the Cure events nationwide. Each year her contribution to breast cancer awareness and research in Columbus lives on through thousands of central Ohioans who take part in and support the annual Susan G. Komen Race for the Cure.

After bringing the Race for the Cure to the Columbus area, Ms. Dyas walked in every race but one and was an active member of the Columbus Komen Board. In 2003 she received the Komen Cameo Award, the highest award given to a volunteer by the foundation. Upon her death in 2005, Susan G. Komen for the Cure established the Cindy Dyas Award of Heroism. The award is presented annually to a long-term breast cancer survivor whose dedication to the cure has given strength to others in the same way that Cindy Dyas has inspired countless cancer survivors.

The Upper Arlington Historical Society and the City of Upper Arlington have chosen Cindy Dyas as one of the 2010 inductee for the Upper Arlington Wall of Honor. Each year the Historical Society and the city select members of the community who have demonstrated an outstanding achievement and personal character, or provided valuable service to the community. The induction ceremony will be held on May 23, 2010, in honor of Cindy Dyas, her contribution to Upper Arlington, Columbus, and the search for a cure of breast cancer. I am proud to honor Cindy Dyas, whose leadership and courage in the fight against breast cancer in the Columbus and central Ohio area has been and continues to be an inspiration.

IN HONOR OF THE PRESCOTT FIRE DEPARTMENT'S 125TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. ANN KIRKPATRICK

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 25, 2010

Mrs. KIRKPATRICK of Arizona. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate and rec-

ognize the Prescott Fire Department in Prescott, Arizona. On March 6th, the City of Prescott will celebrate the 125th Anniversary of their Fire Department's founding. Over the past 125 years, the brave men and women to be honored next Saturday fought some of the most tenacious fires in one of the toughest fire districts in our Nation. Growing up in Arizona, I heard stories about the Prescott Fire Department fighting the fire that destroyed one block of historic "Whiskey Row" in the summer of 1900 and I remember the Indian Fire—a wild-fire that nearly burned through town in the Spring of 2002. Events like these, gave me a deep respect for firefighters, especially those in Prescott. Since 1885 the citizens of Prescott have benefitted from the expert services provided by Arizona's oldest fire department and I look forward to joining the Prescott Fire Department for many future celebrations.

HONORING ALEC ROBINOVITZ, A TOP YOUTH VOLUNTEER IN SOUTH CAROLINA

HON. HENRY E. BROWN, JR.

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 25, 2010

Mr. BROWN of South Carolina. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Alec Robinovitz, who was named one of two top youth volunteers in South Carolina for 2010 by the 15th Annual Prudential Spirit of Community Awards.

Alec, a fifth-grade student at East Cooper Montessori Charter School in Mt. Pleasant, S.C., collected more than 3,000 books over the past two years for patients at the Medical University of South Carolina Children's Hospital. He is a remarkable and inspirational young man who has chosen to make a positive impact on his community by reaching out to those in need.

I am proud of my constituent, Alec Robinovitz, who has displayed an incredible sense of kindness and commitment to the children at MUSC. Thank you, Alec, for your exemplary volunteer service in South Carolina's First District, and congratulations on receiving such a noble honor.

IN TRIBUTE TO REPRESENTATIVE JOHN P. MURTHA OF PENNSYLVANIA

SPEECH OF

HON. BILL SHUSTER

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 24, 2010

Mr. SHUSTER. Madam Speaker, I want to thank Representative KANJORSKI for organizing this afternoon's special order to honor the memory of our friend and colleague Jack Murtha.

Over the course of the hour many members of our delegation and the House will add their own personalized sentiments to memorialize Jack Murtha and I appreciate the opportunity to add my own remarks today.

Jack Murtha will always be remembered for his extraordinary service to his country, both in and out of uniform. He always put the inter-

ests of his country, his state, and his constituents first and he will be greatly missed by all who knew him.

Outside of Pennsylvania, Jack Murtha will be remembered—and rightly so—for his skills in navigating the ins and outs of House rules and procedures. He will be remembered as someone who could get things done in Washington.

As a former colonel in the Marine Corps, Jack never forgot Congress' primary responsibility to provide for our common defense. His unceasing commitment to our national security will go down as legend in Washington, as will the work he did on behalf of our men and women in the military through his chairmanship of the Subcommittee on Defense Appropriations.

For those of us from Pennsylvania, especially the western part of the state, Jack will always be remembered and greatly missed for the dogged determination he showed over his career to make sure the needs of the people he represented were met.

There is little doubt that Jack left an indelible mark on this House and his impact will still be felt long after he is gone.

Personally, I will always remember Jack as a friend to both my father and me over the 36 years he served the people of the 12th district of Pennsylvania.

Jack was an extraordinary person—a tireless advocate for his constituents, and a champion for our national security. We have lost a true patriot. I send my condolences to Jack's wife Joyce and their children. My thoughts and prayers continue to be with them and the people of the 12th District.

HONORING MEHDI MORSHED

HON. DENNIS A. CARDOZA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 25, 2010

Mr. CARDOZA. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Mr. Mehdi Morshed, who has been one of California's leading transportation policy experts and innovators for over 40 years.

Mr. Morshed served as a member of the California High Speed Rail Commission from 1994 to 1996 and was the first person to be appointed to the board of the newly created California High Speed Rail Authority in 1997. He was appointed by the board to be the first Executive Director of the Authority in 1998 and has served in that position since.

Mr. Morshed has been instrumental in guiding the development of the California High Speed Rail Project from its inception and has been an advocate nationwide. The project has evolved from a planning concept to a fully developed project with an 800-mile system that has won political, community, and finally voter support and is poised for implementation in the near future.

Prior to becoming the Executive Director, Mr. Morshed served as the principal policy person on transportation issues for the California State Senate for more than 20 years. Prior to that, he worked for the California Department of Transportation in various capacities, including planning, design and construction of bridges. He was a member of the design engineering team for San Diego's Coronado Bridge.

While with the California Senate, Mr. Morshed was responsible for the development and enactment of a wide range of transportation laws, policies and programs. He helped guide the creation of the State's principal transportation institutions including the High Speed Rail Authority, the California Transportation Commission and various local and regional commissions, transportation districts and other agencies.

Educated at the University of Washington, Seattle, as a civil engineer, he received a master's degree in transportation engineering from the University of California, Berkeley.

Madam Speaker, I ask that my colleagues join me in honoring Mr. Mehdi Morshed for his efforts and dedication to the transportation systems in California.

HONORING LAVERA ETHRIDGE-
WILLIAMS

HON. GEORGE RADANOVICH

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 25, 2010

Mr. RADANOVICH. Madam Speaker, I rise today to commend and congratulate LaVera Ethridge-Williams upon being honored with the "Trail Blazers Award" by the African American Museum in Fresno, California.

Mrs. LaVera Ethridge-Williams was born in Boley, Oklahoma in 1927 to John and Alberta Ethridge. She was raised in Wewoke, Oklahoma where she received her early education. As a child, she cared for her younger siblings while her parents worked. In 1945, Mrs. Ethridge-Williams moved to Fresno, California and attended Fresno City College and California State University, Fresno.

In 1968, Mrs. Ethridge-Williams began the process of opening a child care center in West Fresno. She recognized that a child care center would be a great asset to a community that was largely underserved. She faced many adversities; including obtaining a bank loan and attending many hearings with the state board for the Department of Health and Welfare. After four years of perseverance, Mrs. Ethridge-Williams was able to open her first private child care center. The center was designed specifically for infants and licensed by the California State Department of Social Welfare.

Mrs. Ethridge-Williams quickly began working on the goal of opening a chain of child care centers. She began designing the centers to be innovative and functional for the education of young children. These centers provided valuable early education, emphasizing the importance of school, health, vaccinations, nutrition, as well as employment opportunities for the West Fresno residents.

Mrs. Ethridge-Williams' love for her community and profession was evident throughout her life. She is one of the founding members of the Sickle Cell Support Group through her membership with the Fresno Chapter of The Links, Inc. For her service, Mrs. Ethridge-Williams has been recognized and honored with many awards; including being named the "Outstanding Black Woman of the Year" by Gamma Eta Chapter of the Iota Lambda Society, "Minority Business Enterprise Award" by the City of Fresno, "Portrait of Success Award" from the local NBC affiliate, KSEE 24,

"Woman of the Year" for the 16th Senate District by former State Senator Jim Costa, "Martin Luther King, Jr. Award" and was recognized by the Fresno Unified School District for being a leader in education for the children in the community.

Mrs. Ethridge-Williams is married to Lonzell Williams and together they raised three children. They have five grandchildren and four great-grandchildren.

Madam Speaker, I rise today to commend and congratulate LaVera Ethridge-Williams upon being honored with the "Trail Blazers Award." I invite my colleagues to join me in wishing Mrs. Ethridge-Williams many years of continued success.

HONORING DR. HERBERT RHODES

HON. LEE TERRY

OF NEBRASKA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 25, 2010

Mr. TERRY. Madam Speaker, today I rise during Black History Month to remember the important contributions African Americans have made to our nation. I want to especially honor the extraordinary people who continue to help shape our community and our great nation. I have the privilege of representing thousands of successful and talented African Americans in the second congressional district of Nebraska, and among those is a special individual. I would like to pay tribute to Dr. Herbert Rhodes.

Dr. Rhodes has been a lifelong member of the Omaha business community. He was featured in a 1975 issue of Ebony Magazine, which highlighted successful African Americans who were leading the way in business. During his 36-year tenure at AT&T, he served as a senior manager specializing in risk management for worldwide commercial metals. He is the founder and president of American Harvest Company, which was established in 1979. He continues to be a role model for success as a senior trader for AHT Capital Management Hedge Fund. Dr. Rhodes is a member of the Copper Club and the American Copper Association. He also serves as secretary for the St. Benedict the Moor Catholic Church, president of the men's social club Work in Progress, and is a member of the NAACP. He has been a member of the Nebraska Cattlemen Association since 2008 and now serves as the director of marketing and commerce. He is the proud father of four children and two grandchildren.

Thank you Dr. Herbert Rhodes for your contributions. Your work in our community has made a difference many Nebraskans from all walks of life.

HONORING THE CONTRIBUTIONS
OF AFRICAN AMERICANS TO THE
TRANSPORTATION AND INFRA-
STRUCTURE OF THE UNITED
STATES

SPEECH OF

HON. LAURA RICHARDSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 23, 2010

Ms. RICHARDSON. Madam Speaker, I rise today in support of H. Res. 1085, which sup-

ports the goals and ideals of National African American History Month, celebrates the contributions that African Americans have made to the transportation and infrastructure of the United States, and urges the American people to join the House of Representatives in celebrating these vital contributions. H. Res. 1085 is an important measure that pays tribute to African Americans' crucial role in building our nation, innovating new technologies, and helping create long-lasting economic growth and prosperity.

I thank Chairman OBERSTAR for his leadership in bringing this bill to the floor. I would also like to thank the author of this legislation, Congresswoman CORRINE BROWN, for chronicling the crucial, and often overlooked contributions of African Americans to our nation's growth and progress.

Madam Speaker, African Americans have made significant and far-reaching contributions to our nation's transportation systems and critical infrastructure. Thousands of African Americans overcame racial discrimination, harsh environmental conditions, and frequently physical danger, to build critical portions of our nation's highways, bridges, and transit systems. Many African Americans founded aeronautics schools that trained pilots who went on to serve in the military or fly commercial airliners. Further, African Americans were the source of innovative designs that helped make our transportation and infrastructure systems modern, efficient, and safe. For example, Garrett A. Morgan developed the traffic signal, which has proven indispensable to our transportation system. Elijah McCoy's "lubricating cup" automatically oiled steam engines, making the railroad system dramatically more efficient. Elbert R. Robinson invented the electric railway trolley, which was adopted by cities across the country. Humphrey Reynolds produced the safety gate on bridges, a development that has made transportation significantly safer. These are only a few examples of the vital contributions of African Americans to transportation and infrastructure in the United States.

It is perhaps even less well known that during the Civil Rights Movement, countless African Americans devoted themselves to tireless activism that led to the desegregation of our nation's transportation systems and improved working conditions for transportation workers of all races across the country. These invaluable efforts not only improved our roads, bridges, and transit systems, but also led to significant national progress in achieving racial equality and reconciliation. It is entirely fitting that we take this opportunity to honor African Americans' contributions to our transportation and infrastructure and appreciate the innumerable benefits that these efforts yielded for our nation.

Madam Speaker, I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting H. Res. 1085.

IN MEMORY OF FORMER
PLEASANTON MAYOR BEN
TARVER III

HON. JERRY MCNERNEY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 25, 2010

Mr. MCNERNEY. Madam Speaker, today Congressman PETE STARK and I ask our colleagues to join in honoring the life of Ben

Tarver III, who passed away at age 63 on January 4, 2010.

Ben Tarver was passionate about serving the people of Pleasanton. He moved his family to Pleasanton in 1974 and raised three children with his wife Margo. He started his 18 years of public service by fighting to preserve open spaces and promote smart development. He succeeded in preserving land that is now a part of the East Bay Regional Park District.

Ben Tarver first served as a planning commissioner and was then elected to the City Council in 1988 and elected Mayor four times from 1992–2000. Ben had a deep rooted sense of public service and strong belief in giving back to the community in which he lived. When he was not coaching youth soccer or playing in a league himself, Ben was working with the school district to open up school gyms for community use, promote public parks and youth activities.

Ben also represented the City of Pleasanton through appointments to numerous other Boards, Committees and Commissions. He served on the Bay Area Air Quality Management District Board, the Alameda County Congestion Management Agency Board, the Tri-Valley Wastewater Authority, the Livermore-Amador Valley Waste Management Agency, and fulfilled the role of President of the Alameda County Mayor's Conference and Chair of the Alameda County Local Area Formation Commission. He was an active member of the League of California Cities, serving as Chairman of the Revenue and Taxation Policy Committee and a member of the Telecommunications Task Force.

Ben's years of community service touched the lives of many and improved the quality of life in Pleasanton for decades to come. He led by example and in the words of former Pleasanton Mayor Tom Pico, "Ben was a great steward for our city. He set a high standard for integrity and did everything possible to protect Pleasanton's future."

Ben Tarver's dedication to public service leave a legacy that will continue to benefit the people of Pleasanton, the state of California and our great nation for generations to come. It is for these reasons that Congressman PETE STARK and I ask our Colleagues to join in honoring the memory of Ben Tarver and in sending our thoughts and prayers to his beloved family and friends.

**HONORING KATIE STAGLIANO, A
DISTINGUISHED FINALIST OF
THE 15TH ANNUAL PRUDENTIAL
SPIRIT OF COMMUNITY AWARDS**

HON. HENRY E. BROWN, JR.

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 25, 2010

Mr. BROWN of South Carolina. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Katie Stagliano, one of four distinguished finalists of the 15th Annual Prudential Spirit of Community Awards.

Katie, a fifth-grade student at Pinewood Preparatory School in Summerville, S.C., donated more than 1,000 pounds of fresh produce to local soup kitchens. Even more impressive, Katie produced the vegetables from five gardens that she tends. She has since recruited friends, family, members of the community

and businesses to support her effort to feed the hungry. Katie is a remarkable young woman who has displayed an incredible sense of kindness and commitment to the hungry in South Carolina's First District.

Thank you, Katie, for your exemplary volunteer service, and congratulations on receiving this distinguished honor.

MARGARET REYEZ

HON. THADDEUS G. McCOTTER

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 25, 2010

Mr. McCOTTER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to acknowledge and honor Margaret Reyez, who is the recipient of the ATHENA award, which honors outstanding women for their leadership.

After a 13-year career at St. Mary Mercy Hospital in Livonia, Michigan, Margaret found her true calling when she became an Information and Media Center Clerk for the Westland Public Schools Student Libraries. In the position she still holds, Margaret promotes literacy and the benefit it brings. Margaret is also a featured history presenter in the dramatic program of Greenfield Village. Appearing as an 1871 era schoolmarm at the Scott Settlement School, Margaret brings history to life and continues her championship of literacy. Certified in 1987 as a coordinator with Rainbows for All God's Children, a support group for children suffering the loss of a parent through death or divorce, Margaret lent her caring heart to the most vulnerable in her community. In 1990, Mrs. Reyez was certified as a Youth Minister, devoting herself to that role at SS. Simon and Jude Church in her hometown of Westland. Margaret Reyez graduated in 2001 from Schoolcraft College with an Associates Degree in Liberal Arts. She is involved in numerous community service programs including the Red Wagon Literacy campaign.

Mother to three adult children and five grandchildren, perhaps the greatest testament to Margaret Reyez comes from her daughter who credits her mother with instilling this in her children, "You can be and do anything you want to if you just keep trying and don't give up."

Dedicated to her community, she has tirelessly worked to identify the needs of families within the Wayne Westland School District, and is considered a mentor and role model to women in her community.

Madam Speaker, Margaret Reyez has forged a legacy of commitment and dedication to helping families in the Cities of Wayne and Westland. I ask my colleagues to join me today in honoring Margaret, and I congratulate her upon receiving this honor.

**H.J. RES. 45—INCREASING THE
STATUTORY LIMIT ON THE PUBLIC
LIC DEBT**

HON. GARY C. PETERS

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 25, 2010

Mr. PETERS. Madam Speaker, there is no way I can in good conscience vote for an al-

most \$2 trillion increase in the debt limit, without first exploring other alternatives. We need a plan for reducing spending in both the short and long term, and a workable path to balance our budget and shrink our national debt. For example, reducing the authorization for TARP, cutting wasteful agriculture subsidies to corporate factory farms and cracking down on off-shore haven tax cheats could help reduce the debt while Congress works toward enacting a long term, bipartisan solution that will aggressively reduce our budget deficits.

This year, Congress needs to cut spending and create a bipartisan debt commission, as well as enact a strong PAY-GO law that requires any new spending programs be offset elsewhere in the budget. We must find a way to control budget deficits or another debt increase will likely be inevitable. That's the responsible strategy for generating surpluses like we enjoyed in the 1990s.

Last week, the Senate had a genuine opportunity to take on our national debt in a bipartisan manner as proposed by Senators GREGG and CONRAD. Their proposal, which was supported by a majority of the Senate including moderate Democrats and Republicans but unfortunately killed by a stubborn minority, would have created a bipartisan commission that would craft fiscal reforms that Congress would then have to vote on as a single package.

I am voting to reject the Senate's almost \$2 trillion debt increase. Any debt increase that Congress considers going forward should include a plan for long term debt reduction, such as Senator GREGG's debt commission.

**CELEBRATING 110 YEARS OF THE
VFW**

HON. TED POE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 25, 2010

Mr. POE of Texas. Madam Speaker, The Veterans of Foreign Wars, VFW, celebrated its 110 years of service recently. Decades ago on September 29, 1899 a small group of Spanish-American war veterans came together to speak on behalf of the many veterans who returned home wounded or sick. With no medical care or pension, these brave men were left to fend for themselves. The first three chapters were formed and rapidly gained popularity throughout the United States, and by 1936 proudly declared a membership of almost 200,000 veterans.

The VFW has been in the forefront of helping convey the acknowledgments and benefits deserved to those who fought for our country. I would like to name a few achievements of the VFW. They assisted in establishing the Veterans Administration, the GI Bill for the 20th Century, and fought for compensation of war related injuries and illnesses.

Today, the VFW and Auxiliary volunteer in the community and donate to college scholarships and provide financial assistance to service men and women and their families. Their list of accomplishments is long and diverse. I would like to thank each member and the VFW as a whole for their steadfast hard work in giving back to those who gave so selflessly.

A TRIBUTE IN RECOGNITION OF SISTER JENNIE LECHTENBERG UPON HER RETIREMENT FROM PUENTE LEARNING CENTER AFTER 25 YEARS AS ITS FOUNDER AND CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

HON. LUCILLE ROYBAL-ALLARD

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 25, 2010

Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Sister Jennie Lechtenberg on the occasion of her retirement from PUENTE Learning Center—the educational organization she founded which has served more than 80,000 students since its inception 25 years ago.

Sister Jennie's visionary and lifelong commitment to educating residents of low-income, underserved communities dates back to 1954 when she joined the Sisters of the Holy Names of Jesus and Mary. After earning a Bachelor's Degree from Holy Names College in Oakland, California, Sister Jennie worked as a teacher and administrator in Los Angeles-area Catholic schools for more than three decades.

It was during a three-month sabbatical in 1983 that Sister Jennie received her inspiration for PUENTE Learning Center. After launching tutoring programs for low-achieving first- and second-graders at several public schools in Boyle Heights located in the heart of my congressional district, Sister Jennie observed firsthand that the children struggling the most in school came from homes in which parents lacked basic education and/or English-language proficiency.

It was then Sister Jennie made it her mission to address the broader educational needs of the entire family. To enable parents to assist their children academically, she initiated an English-language-acquisition class for adults. As an intergenerational, family-oriented educational organization, these classes served as the organization's academic foundation. In recognition of the center's broader purpose to improve the lives of adults and children in the home and in the community, Sister Jennie aptly named the center PUENTE—the Spanish word for bridge and an acronym for People United to Enrich the Neighborhood Through Education.

Sister Jennie's vision and commitment to PUENTE's future also brought key support from generous donors. Prior to being elected Mayor of Los Angeles, Richard J. Riordan purchased property for PUENTE on Boyle Avenue. Classes were held on the property in 10 double-wide trailers. At Sister Jennie's urging, foundations, corporations, and individuals supported an ambitious \$10 million capital campaign launched in 1992 to fund the construction of the center's 40,000-square-foot permanent home in Boyle Heights. The stunning new technologically-sophisticated center opened in 1995.

During this same time period, efforts were underway to expand PUENTE into South Los Angeles, an impoverished community struggling to recover from the 1992 riots. Following the civil unrest, the ARCO Foundation invited PUENTE to establish a satellite campus on land that previously housed an ARCO service station that had been destroyed in the riot. A

small, two-classroom center opened on the donated property in 1994 in temporary trailers where students received English instruction and basic computer skills.

Community demand in South Los Angeles for additional classes, especially for children and adolescents, prompted the launch of a second capital campaign to construct a permanent \$5 million South Los Angeles home. The 20,000-square-foot facility opened in November 1999. A multi-purpose room was added to the new facility in December 2001.

Today, approximately 2,000 students attend classes each day in Boyle Heights and South Los Angeles. PUENTE's tuition-free programs include: Preschool Readiness; Charter Kindergarten; After School Enrichment; High School Tutorial; and Adult Education including English as a Second Language, Adult High School Diploma, Job Training, and Computer Repair/A+ Certification Preparation.

Madam Speaker, on March 18, 2010, the community will gather at a gala dinner to honor Sister Jennie's outstanding contributions as founder of PUENTE and to celebrate the 25th anniversary of this life-transforming organization which has given hope and opportunity to countless individuals at the centers in Boyle Heights and South Los Angeles.

I ask my congressional colleagues to please join me in thanking Sister Jennie for her many years of exemplary service to the community. In addition to witnessing her incredible contributions to Los Angeles over the years, I am also proud to call her a dear friend.

As Sister Jennie transitions into retirement, we commend her for her leadership and hard work to develop PUENTE into the nationally and internationally renowned educational center for children, youth and adults that it is today.

We extend to her our most heartfelt gratitude and best wishes.

IN CELEBRATION OF TOWN OF NORMAL MAYOR CHRIS KOOS BEING NAMED AS AN ENVIRONMENTAL HERO BY THE STATE OF ILLINOIS

HON. DEBORAH L. HALVORSON

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 25, 2010

Mrs. HALVORSON. Madam Speaker, today I rise to recognize Mayor Chris Koos of the Town of Normal, for being named by Governor Patrick Quinn as an "Environmental Hero" by the State of Illinois. The award is given in recognition of a strong commitment to the health and protection of the environment in Illinois.

Through strong leadership and commitment to sustainable practices, Mayor Koos was at the forefront of creating a pedestrian-friendly community that has attracted Fortune 500 companies and over \$200 million in private investment. In addition, Uptown Normal is the first neighborhood in the United States to require Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) certification for new buildings.

Having had the opportunity to work with Mayor Koos, I know first-hand that this award is well deserved. His dedication to innovative, cleaner and greener initiatives, has improved the quality of life for the citizens of the Town of Normal. For this, I commend him for his ef-

forts and wish him and the Town of Normal continued growth and success for years to come.

HEALTH INSURANCE INDUSTRY FAIR COMPETITION ACT

SPEECH OF

HON. BART STUPAK

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 24, 2010

Mr. STUPAK. Mr. Speaker, the insurance industry and Major League Baseball are the last industries in our country not subject to Federal anti-trust laws.

The insurance industry can collude to set rates, resulting in higher premiums than true competition would achieve.

Because of the exemption, rate increases are not reviewed by the Federal Government.

Today I held a hearing of the Energy and Commerce Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigations evaluating the most recent and egregious example of this. In California, WellPoint's Anthem Blue Cross plan recently raised premiums by an astounding 39 percent.

One of the most effective actions Congress can take to lower health care costs is to remove the health insurance industry's anti-trust exemption.

This legislation would create competition in the health insurance market and lower the overall cost of health insurance for consumers.

According to the American Medical Association, 94 percent of insurance markets in the United States are now highly concentrated. In my state of Michigan, one company controls 63 of the health insurance market.

Insurers are thriving in the anti-competitive marketplace, raking in enormous profits and paying out huge salaries to top executives.

Meanwhile, American families are struggling to pay their mortgages, credit card bills and medical expenses. Many are losing their health insurance altogether with the loss of their jobs.

Yet health insurance companies continue to thrive, at the expense of struggling Americans.

It is about time that insurance companies play by the same rules as every other American industry.

I urge Members to support this legislation, to establish a fair insurance market that encourages competition and lower costs.

HONORING THE LIFE AND ACCOMPLISHMENTS OF GEORGE RIOS UPON HIS RETIREMENT

HON. ZOE LOFGREN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 25, 2010

Ms. ZOE LOFGREN of California. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and accomplishments of a distinguished member of my community, George Rios. After more than thirty years of service, George is retiring from the City of San Jose on March 6, 2010.

In the great tradition of the American Dream, Mr. Rios is the son of Mexican immigrants. He grew up in Oakland, California and spoke no English as a child. His father was a

stucco factory worker, and his mother took care of George along with his 2 brothers and 1 sister. To help support the family, George and his brothers and sister took odd jobs, such as picking fruit, and loading and unloading produce.

Mr. Rios graduated from high school in 1969, and then went to college at San Jose State University and graduated in 1974. He graduated from University of California's Davis King Hall School of Law in 1977.

After completing his legal studies, George worked at San Jose Legal Aid helping indigent clients with civil legal issues. After two and a half years at Legal Aid, George was hired at the Office of the San Jose City Attorney. He began work in January of 1980 under then-City Attorney Bob Logan. After only five years, he was promoted to the position of Assistant City Attorney. George has handled complex lawsuits for the City including arguing numerous cases in State and Federal courts. He has argued 2 cases before the California Supreme Court and assisted in arguing one case before the United States Supreme Court.

George has served on the Mayors' Gang Prevention Task Force and the Task Force to implement Fast Track rules in Superior Court. He has been active in the Bar, served as a pro tem judge, a trustee for the Santa Clara County Bar Association, and as a member of the La Raza Lawyers Association. He has also served on the Board of Directors of the Almaden Valley Counseling Center, and as a member of the California Council for Criminal Justice and the Legal Advocacy Committee of the League of California Cities.

George is a tremendous role model and is a valued member of the San Jose community. I wish him, his wife and three sons the very best as he enjoys his retirement.

H.R. 4264 THE EQUALITY FOR WOMEN FARMERS ACT

HON. ANNA G. ESHOO

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 25, 2010

Ms. ESHOO. Madam Speaker, I rise in support of and very proud to cosponsor the Equality for Women Farmers Act, introduced by Congresswoman DELAURO.

I thank Congresswoman DELAURO for her leadership on behalf of women farmers. After being presented with the facts about the U.S. Department of Agriculture's history of discrimination toward women farmers, Congresswoman DELAURO became their champion and crafted H.R. 4264, the Equality for Women Farmers Act.

Like Congresswoman DELAURO, I'm proud of the important role women farmers have played in the development of our nation's food system, but I was shocked to learn about the discrimination that many women farmers have been subjected to by the USDA.

In December, Congresswoman DELAURO and I listened to six extraordinary women farmers who shared their stories about discrimination from the USDA. This discrimination has come in many forms including denied access to even an application form.

More than 1,900 women farmers across the U.S. have detailed the discrimination they suffered in seeking farm loans and assistance

from the USDA and how such actions have seriously disadvantaged them.

The discrimination cost some of the women farmers their livelihoods and discouraged future generations of women farmers from considering this an honorable profession.

I applaud the USDA and the Obama administration for reaching an agreement with black farmers over racial discrimination, however, we can not forget about the other groups that have faced discrimination at the USDA, including women farmers.

The Equality for Women Farmers Act changes USDA policy to provide a procedure for compensating women farmers who have suffered years of gender discrimination from the USDA. This legislation will establish a compensation fund for women farmers and set up a process to review and adjudicate their claims.

I support the Equality for Women Farmers Act because I believe strongly that all farmers, regardless of gender, should be given the opportunity to succeed. I urge my colleagues to support this important legislation.

HONORING THE LIFE AND SERVICE OF LANCE CORPORAL JOSHUA H. BIRCHFIELD

HON. JOE DONNELLY

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 25, 2010

Mr. DONNELLY of Indiana. Madam Speaker, today, I rise to solemnly honor Lance Corporal Joshua Birchfield for his dedication and service to the United States of America. LCpl Birchfield, a 24-year-old member of the Marine Corps, was killed on February 19, 2010 by small arms fire while conducting combat operations in Helmand Province during his first tour of duty to Afghanistan. Joshua risked everything to serve his country, and for that we are eternally grateful.

Joshua graduated from Westville High School in 2004 and enlisted in the Marine Corps on April 18, 2008. He joined the Marines after seeing a TV news segment focused on the hardships military families endure when they are separated, especially during the holidays. He was deeply inspired by those who dedicated their lives in the service of others, and he wanted to share the burden they were carrying on behalf of our nation. LCpl Birchfield was stationed in Helmand Province as a rifleman with the 3rd Battalion, 4th Marine Regiment, 1st Marine Expeditionary Force based in Twentynine Palms, California. For his service and support in Operation Enduring Freedom, he has been awarded multiple military awards including the Purple Heart, Combat Action Ribbon, National Defense Medal, Afghanistan Campaign Medal, Global War on Terrorism Service Medal, Sea Service Deployment Ribbon and the NATO Medal.

A baseball enthusiast, Joshua was a hero to many in the Westville community and will be remembered as the selfless and compassionate human being he was. Joshua is survived by both his parents and sisters, extended family and many friends.

It is my solemn duty, and humble privilege, to honor and remember Lance Cpl. Joshua H. Birchfield and a life cut tragically short. Joshua stands as a testament to the great honor pos-

sessed, and sacrifices made, by our men and women in the armed forces, and their families. We were all blessed by his presence and we are all diminished by his passing. I, and the grateful citizens of Indiana's Second District are deeply saddened by his loss, especially for his family, our community and our country. We mourn his passing and offer solemn gratitude for his service.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE FARMINGTON/FARMINGTON HILLS FOUNDATION FOR YOUTH AND FAMILIES ON CELEBRATING ITS 15TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. GARY C. PETERS

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 3, 2010

Mr. PETERS. Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in celebrating the 15th anniversary of the Farmington/Farmington Hills Foundation for Youth and Families. As a Member of Congress, it is both my honor and privilege to recognize this important milestone and pay tribute to this outstanding organization.

The Foundation was created in 1995 with the focus of assisting youth through supporting after-school programs. Over the Foundation's 15 years it has awarded almost \$500,000 to 37 different non-profit groups. The Foundation has since grown and expanded its focus to support a wide-range of community based programs which work to enrich the lives of Farmington and Farmington Hills residents. Each year the Foundation holds an annual gala to highlight the work of programs it has supported, as well as raise support and awareness for future projects. At its 2009 gala, the Foundation introduced its "Bountiful Backpack" program, which arose out of the need to ensure that the substantial number of children who are on free and reduced lunch in our schools continue to have those same healthy nutritional options outside of school.

This year the Foundation honors George and Delores Riley, whose philanthropic work has left a profound positive impact on the communities and citizens of Farmington and Farmington Hills. After nearly 30 years of running a highly successful communications business, in 1998 George Riley sold his company and started the Riley Foundation. According to Mr. Riley, he started the foundation to "really help children." Mr. Riley's vision and commitment continues today with the Rileys' children.

The Riley Foundation's latest major project created a park in downtown Farmington which has been a haven for children and their families in the Farmington area. Beyond local projects, the Riley Foundation has done extraordinary work for the less fortunate worldwide and has recently partnered with public television to develop a new broadcast center for the Metro-Detroit market.

Madam Speaker, I am honored today to recognize the Farmington/Farmington Hills Foundation for Youth and Families on the occasion of its 15th anniversary and wish them many more years of continued success in creating a stronger Farmington/Farmington Hills community through its support of projects which enrich the lives of area residents.

HONORING FRANK HAYES

HON. LEE TERRY

OF NEBRASKA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 25, 2010

Mr. TERRY. Madam Speaker, today it is my privilege to rise during Black History Month, a time when we remember the important contributions African Americans have made to our nation. I want to especially honor the extraordinary people who continue to help shape my community and our great nation. I represent thousands of successful and talented African Americans in the Second Congressional District of Nebraska. Today I would like to pay special tribute to Frank Hayes.

Mr. Hayes is a CPA in Omaha. He was the first African American in the state of Nebraska to receive his license to practice public accountancy. He owns his own business, dealing with individual and corporate tax. He began his business in 1983 and now has more than 20 employees serving more than 100 clients in 15 states. He is also a founding member and was the first president of the 100 Black Men organization, which is dedicated to improving the lives of youth. He has worked tirelessly to help minorities start their own businesses and is currently the executive vice president for finance for the 100 Black Men of America National Board of Directors. In 2009, Mr. Hayes was inducted into the Omaha Business Hall of Fame and the Omaha Technical High School Hall of Fame for outstanding accomplishments in business and community service.

Thank you Frank Hayes for everything you have done in your long and distinguished career, making a difference in the lives of thousands of people, especially our young people.

IN CELEBRATION OF THE TWENTIETH ANNIVERSARY OF THE MCLEAN COUNTY COMMUNITY COMPACT

HON. DEBORAH L. HALVORSON

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 25, 2010

Mrs. HALVORSON. Madam Speaker, today I rise to recognize the 20th Anniversary of the McLean County Community COMPACT (Collaborating on Meaningful Partnerships and Careers for Tomorrow). The COMPACT, through a coalition of business, education, community, and government volunteers, offers support to school-aged youth in McLean County, Illinois. The COMPACT helps youth become self-sufficient, contributing citizens, through an effective transition from formal schooling to the world of work.

The COMPACT offers a variety of supportive special programs and services for students, teachers, and educational entities through a collaborative effort among business and community leaders. The COMPACT promotes active exchange of resources among businesses and educational entities, including the participation of students in research projects.

The McLean County Community COMPACT was born in 1989 when a small group of local leaders met to address the high school dropout rate and the number of children in McLean

County living in poverty. From these leaders came invitations to colleagues to join the effort and a volunteer organization named the COMPACT was born. Since 1990, thousands of students have participated in the COMPACT's projects and from those projects created awareness, motivation, and direction for many young people.

In November of 1994, the COMPACT entered into a partnership with the University of Illinois Extension in McLean County. The organization continued to move forward, hiring an executive director who coordinates among the COMPACT's 250 members. In its 20th year, the COMPACT focuses on 8 project areas including the original Sixth Grade Business Education Partnerships, Principal for a Day, and Career Preparation Realities. It also serves at-risk youth through Achieving Competence in Education and brings technology to homes of students without it through the Clearinghouse Project. More recently, the COMPACT has developed youth leadership activities through Teens in Prevention and YouthLEADS, offering opportunities for youth to help their peers find the correct path.

I would like to commend the McLean County Community COMPACT staff, volunteers and board of directors for their commitment and innovative collaborative efforts in preparing the youth of McLean County for the world of work. I wish them many more years of continued success.

HONORING THE HEROIC ACTIONS OF SERGEANT JOSEPH MATTEONI AND FIREFIGHTERS GARY DUNNE AND JEFF JOHNSTON DURING THE 309 MILL STREET APARTMENT FIRE OF AUGUST 30, 2009

HON. TOM MCCLINTOCK

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 25, 2010

Mr. MCCLINTOCK. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the heroic actions of Sergeant Joseph Matteoni of the Grass Valley Police Department and Firefighters Gary Dunne and Jeff Johnston of the Grass Valley Fire Department, Engine 1, during the 309 Mill Street Apartment Fire.

On the morning of August 30, 2009, fire and police units were dispatched to an apartment building fire at 309 Mill Street in Grass Valley, California. Upon arriving at the scene of the fire, responders were informed by local citizens that residents were trapped inside the building.

Sergeant Matteoni heard faint cries for help emanating from the backside of the second story of the building. Without hesitation, and disregarding his own personal safety, Sergeant Matteoni rushed into the smoke-filled building. Battling extreme heat and smoke, Sergeant Matteoni carried a woman out of the building and with the assistance of Officer Dan Kimbrough, moved her to safety.

Meanwhile, Firefighters Dunne and Johnston entered from the front of the building. Forced to crawl on their bellies because of the thick smoke and extreme heat, the firefighters pushed through the burning building toward cries for help, finding a second woman standing disoriented in the hallway. As they ap-

proached, the woman retreated further into her smoke-filled apartment where she collapsed. Pushing into the apartment, Firefighters Dunne and Johnston carried the woman out of the building and to safety.

The brave actions of Sergeant Joseph Matteoni and Firefighters Gary Dunne and Jeff Johnston are a testament to the finest traditions of the Grass Valley Police and Fire Departments. It is my honor to recognize and thank them for their commitment to going well above and beyond the call of duty in service to our community.

IN SUPPORT OF KFUD 99.1 FM
"CLASSIC99"

HON. WM. LACY CLAY

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 25, 2010

Mr. CLAY. Madam Speaker, I stand today on behalf of my constituents and with my friend and colleague Congressman JOHN SHIMKUS to raise further concern about the pending sale and format change of Classic99. As St. Louis's only classical radio station, Classic99 is a true asset to our city.

As Congressman SHIMKUS noted, the sale of KFUD 99.1 FM by the Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod is currently under review by both the Media Bureau and the FCC. While we certainly do not wish to exact undue influence on either of these agencies, our constituents have made clear to us their concerns, and we agree that this loss will be a blow to the wealth of our region's culture and economy. We hope that these negative impacts will be considered while reviewing this sale.

We have seen that losing the arts can wreak havoc on a community, and the Metro East region will be no different. If Classic99 is converted to a different music format, the cultural and economic consequences will be dismal. The world-renowned St. Louis Symphony Orchestra will lose airtime and its chief advertising venue, forcing gifted musicians and staff to suffer even more pay cuts and freezes. Losing Classic99 will result in a cultural deficit as well. 94% of readers polled by the St. Louis Post-Dispatch feel that the loss of Classic99 "takes away a vital voice for the arts in this community," and will detrimentally affect their ability to support local artists.

Arts education organizations throughout my district, like the Opera Theater of St. Louis, the St. Louis Art Museum, and the Touhill Performing Arts Center, will lose their only major arena for audience-building, live broadcasts, and fund-raising. The loss of revenue will hinder arts and music education in the district, further impairing opportunities for our young people to be enriched through the arts. We know that arts education gives youths self-confidence and increases academic achievement. We simply cannot afford to sacrifice these opportunities, and I am deeply troubled by the idea that more educational outlets for our children will be put in jeopardy by this move.

I firmly agree with my colleague that the negative impact these cultural and economic changes will have on the local community should play a role in determining the sale of 99.1.

COMMENDING JOHN ANTON OF
HAVERHILL

HON. NIKI TSONGAS

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 25, 2010

Ms. TSONGAS. Madam Speaker, today I pay tribute to John Anton, the National Down Syndrome Society 2010 Advocate of the Year. Mr. Anton is a resident of Haverhill, Massachusetts in my congressional district. Throughout his life, Mr. Anton has been a leader and advocate for those with intellectual and developmental disabilities. His work has touched thousands of lives, and his efforts should be recognized and emulated.

The National Down Syndrome Society is the national advocate for the value, acceptance and inclusion of people with Down Syndrome. The Advocate of the Year honor commends Mr. Anton's work to enhance the quality of life for those with intellectual and developmental disabilities, while helping them to realize their life aspirations and become valued members of their communities.

Mr. Anton certainly deserves this award. He has committed his life to helping individuals adapt to their disabilities, achieve their greatest potential, and work toward productive, independent lives.

In Massachusetts, Mr. Anton was heavily involved in efforts to change the name of the state Department of Mental Retardation to the Department of Developmental Services. He was determined to bring awareness to this cause, and was successful in his endeavor. Massachusetts adopted the new name in 2009. He is to be congratulated on this achievement.

Mr. Anton served as the Chairman of Massachusetts Advocates Standing Strong. He spent time as a legislative intern with State Representative Tom Sannicandro and also worked for the Arc of Greater Haverhill-Newburyport. Throughout his life, he has mentored others with disabilities and has been a great inspiration to many. We in Massachusetts are grateful for his service to the Commonwealth.

Madam Speaker, I hope my colleagues will join me today in congratulating John Anton for receiving the National Down Syndrome Society 2010 Advocate of the Year, and for his efforts and dedication to a cause for which he is so passionate.

We thank you, Mr. Anton, for your ongoing service to those with intellectual and developmental disabilities and look forward hearing of your continued successes.

HONORING DR. DAVID BENKE

HON. MIKE COFFMAN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 25, 2010

Mr. COFFMAN of Colorado. Madam Speaker, I rise to honor Dr. David Benke, a math teacher at Deer Creek Middle School in Littleton, Colorado.

Dr. Benke is an ordinary American—husband, father, teacher and coach—but his actions this week in the face of grave danger were nothing short of extraordinary.

As school was letting out on Tuesday, a gunman approached and opened fire on students.

Upon seeing the suspect, Dr. Benke, in a moment of extreme bravery, rushed towards the shooter, wrestled him to the ground, and held on as his colleagues helped subdue the shooter.

He broke up a potentially deadly school shooting, and if it were not for the rapid and selfless actions of Dr. Benke and his colleagues it could have been a much more violent and tragic encounter.

When asked about his actions, Dr. Benke modestly remarked, "If something happens and there's something I can do about it, I want to try and do something about it."

He did more than just "something."

There are many heroes in our midst, and sometimes it takes an extraordinary moment of danger to bring out their true valor.

The people of the Sixth District are fortunate to have Dr. Benke in our community. It is ordinary people like him who do extraordinary things that keeps our community safe.

RECOGNIZING GREG FIRST OF
DADE CITY, FLORIDA

HON. GINNY BROWN-WAITE

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 25, 2010

Ms. GINNY BROWN-WAITE of Florida. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Greg First of Dade City, FL. for most of his life, Greg has been a faithful servant to his community; volunteering himself to many causes which have helped to enrich the lives of many.

Born to Jimmy and Mary First in Bedford, Ohio, Mr. First moved to Zephyrhills with his family at the age of 10. After graduating from Zephyrhills High School, he attended the University of Maryland and served in the United States Air Force from 1968 to 1972.

Mr. First has volunteered himself, quite literally, having donated a total of 16 gallons of blood while director of public relations for Blood Net, in addition to volunteering for Meals on Wheels, Relay for Life, and a local Hospice. He has kept up the spirits of Zephyrhills residents as an announcer for Main Street Parades and high school football games. A three-time president of the Chamber of Commerce, Mr. First has been a Christian Radio DJ, a lifetime Am Vet Member, and he even started his own local news website, "What's Up Zephyrhills?"

Madam Speaker, on February 26, the Conservative Club of East Pasco will honor Greg's achievements with the Lincoln Heritage Award. I ask you to join me today to honor him on the floor of this house. May we all give back to our communities as much as Mr. First has.

HONORING THE LIFE AND SACRIFICE OF MEDGAR EVARS AND CELEBRATING THE UNITED STATES NAVY FOR NAMING A SUPPLY SHIP AFTER MEDGAR EVARS

HON. LAURA RICHARDSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 25, 2010

Ms. RICHARDSON. Madam Speaker, I rise today in support of H. Res. 1022, which hon-

ors the life and sacrifice of Medgar Evars, recognizes the important role he played in progressing the cause of civil rights, and congratulates the United States Navy for honoring him with the naming of the United States naval ship *Medgar Evars*. H. Res. 1022 is an important measure that pays tribute to an individual who sacrificed his life fighting for the core American values of equality and civil rights.

I thank Chairmen CONYERS for his leadership in bringing this bill to the floor. I would also like to thank the author of this legislation, Congressman HANK JOHNSON, who has taken the time to remember the invaluable work of Medgar Evars and to celebrate the United States Navy's efforts to honor this American hero.

Medgar Evars was born in 1925 in Decatur, Mississippi. Growing up in the heart of the segregated South, Medgar Evars experienced the worst of racial oppression. Still, in 1943, he volunteered to serve his country in World War II, and fought valiantly with the United States Army in the Battle of Normandy.

After fighting overseas for the cause of freedom and democracy, Medgar Evars returned home to a segregated country as a second-class citizen. He dedicated himself to activism, working tirelessly for the cause of racial equality on behalf of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP). As a result of his activism, Medgar Evars was the target of numerous death threats and assassination attempts. But his bravery and dedication knew no bounds and he continued his important work until he was tragically murdered on June 12, 1963.

It is entirely fitting that we honor Medgar Evars, who in his life as well as his death, helped move our country out of a time of oppression and segregation and into an era of greater tolerance and equality.

It is equally fitting that the United States Navy has chosen to honor Medgar Evars with the naming of the United States naval ship *Medgar Evars*. This ship, a *Lewis and Clark* class dry cargo ship, is a state-of-the-art vessel that will provide essential logistics support to Navy operations around the world. Just as Medgar Evars helped bring our nation racial reconciliation, the United States naval ship *Medgar Evars* will help the Navy to promote peace and conflict resolution throughout the world. This ship is one more way in which the life and sacrifice of Medgar Evars will continue to serve as a beacon of equality.

Madam Speaker, I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting H. Res. 1022.

IN HONOR AND REMEMBRANCE OF
LINDA GROVER

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 25, 2010

Mr. KUCINICH. Madam Speaker, I rise today in honor of Linda Grover, an author and an activist for global peace. Ms. Grover turned her strong sense of justice into words and actions. Ms. Grover consistently fought for the common good as a volunteer and as a leader on behalf of numerous local, national and international projects.

Following her marriage to Broadway actor-singer Stanley Grover, Ms. Grover led a 7-

year crusade to save and preserve the historic apartment building at 325 Central Park West. Thanks in part to her persistence and commitment, New York City officials overturned their decision to condemn the building. After the building was saved and restored, Ms. Grover led the effort to purchase it and transform the apartments into rent-controlled co-ops.

Before moving to New York City, Ms. Grover was named clerk of what is now the National Resources Committee's Office of Indian Affairs at 21 when she was also a legislative aide to Congressman Sam Yorty of California. She also worked for the National Committee for an Effective Congress and was a case-worker for the International Rescue Committee following the Hungarian Revolution. Despite a lengthy illness, Ms. Grover continued her work from her apartment in Washington, DC. To the end she maintained her passion, energy and dedication.

Madam Speaker, please join me in honor of Ms. Linda Grover, whose dedicated efforts organizing for peace have given all of us hope for a better world. I offer my condolences to her loving family and many friends; especially to her beloved children, Cindy, Steven and Jamie. Mrs. Grover's love for her family and her legacy of peace will never be forgotten.

TRAGEDY IN KHOJALY, AZERBAIJAN

HON. SOLOMON P. ORTIZ

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 25, 2010

Mr. ORTIZ. Madam Speaker, I rise today to bring attention to the tragedy that occurred in Khojaly, Azerbaijan on February 26, 1992. Many lives of the Azerbaijan people living in Khojaly were lost and scores of others were destroyed when they were brutally attacked by Armenian forces on February 25–26, 1992.

With a population of 7,000, Khojaly was one of the three largest urban settlements of the Nagorno-Karabakh region of Azerbaijan.

Armenians established the blockade of Khojaly in the fall of 1991, cutting off ground transportation on October 30. Electricity and water supplies were cut off in January 1992. By February 1992, almost all of the Nagorno-Karabakh except Shusha and Khojaly had fallen under control of Armenians backed by Russia's 366th regiment.

On the night of 25 February 1992, the Armenians and the Russian 366th launched an attack on Khojaly.

The Armenians had declared that a "free corridor" would be provided for civilians to leave Khojaly. However, people were attacked on their way to Aghdam, the nearest Azerbaijani settlement.

The Khojaly tragedy was covered by the foreign media including the Boston Globe, the Washington Times, New York Times, Financial Times, and many other European and Russian news agencies. On November 29, 1993, Newsweek quoted a senior U.S. Government official as saying, "What we see now is a systematic destruction of every village in their [the Armenians] way. It's vandalism." Human Rights Watch called the tragedy at the time "the largest massacre to date in the conflict." The extent of the cruelty of this massacre against women, children and the elderly was unfathomable:

613 people were killed including 63 children, 106 women, and 70 elderly.

8 families were wiped out.

25 children lost both parents.

130 children lost one parent.

487 people were wounded including 76 children.

1,275 people were taken hostage.

Armenia still occupies close to 20 percent of Azerbaijan. Nearly 1 million Azerbaijanis live as refugees in their own country, displaced by Armenian aggression. Resolutions issued by the U.N. Security Council and the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe, PACE, have ordered Armenia to withdraw from Azerbaijan's lands.

Azerbaijan is a strong ally of the United States in a very important and very uncertain region of the world. I ask my colleagues to join with me and our Azerbaijani friends in commemorating the tragedy that happened to the people of Khojaly.

INTRODUCTION OF THE NATIONAL ALZHEIMER'S PROJECT ACT

HON. EDWARD J. MARKEY

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 25, 2010

Mr. MARKEY of Massachusetts. Madam Speaker, I rise today to introduce the National Alzheimer's Project Act. I would like to thank my colleague and fellow cochair of the bipartisan Alzheimer's Task Force, Mr. CHRIS SMITH of New Jersey, for continuing to partner with me on this important legislation.

An estimated 5.3 million Americans have Alzheimer's disease, and one in ten individuals has a family member with the disease. Unless science finds a way to prevent or cure it, nearly 16 million Americans will have Alzheimer's disease by the year 2050. Additionally, in 2005, Medicare spent \$91 billion for the care of individuals with Alzheimer's disease, and this amount is projected to increase to \$160 billion in 2010.

While we have made great progress in the battle against Alzheimer's, much more needs to be done. This bill will establish a National Alzheimer's Project Office and interagency Advisory Council to help coordinate a national plan for Alzheimer's research, care, and related support services. The National Alzheimer's Project Office will be established within and overseen by the Department of Health and Human Services. Alzheimer's efforts throughout the federal government will be coordinated and continually evaluated by this entity, including research, clinical care, and various support programs. The Alzheimer's Association has endorsed this bill which will modify care delivery and help prevention of this awful disease.

Madam Speaker, in order to help fight this disease and reduce the number of patients who suffer from Alzheimer's, it is imperative to better coordinate federal activities relating to this disease. I urge my colleagues to cosponsor this important legislation, and I look forward to continuing to work with them throughout the legislative process.

IN RECOGNITION OF JAMIE McMURRAY'S WIN AT THE DAYTONA 500 IN THE NO. 1 CHEVROLET BASS PRO SHOPS/TRACKER BOATS CAR

HON. ROY BLUNT

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 25, 2010

Mr. BLUNT. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to America's great spectator sport, NASCAR; its most prestigious race, the Daytona 500; and the 2010 champion, Southwest Missouri native Jamie McMurray. On Sunday, McMurray rode to victory in a Bass Pro Shops sponsored car. His stunning win sparked excitement among all NASCAR fans, especially those in Southwest Missouri, where he learned his racing skills.

McMurray started 2010 without a ride, having been released from another team at the end of the 2009 season. When Springfield, Missouri-based Bass Pro Shops owner Johnny Morris decided to return to NASCAR sponsorship with Earnhardt Ganassi Racing, McMurray got the call to drive. McMurray won the Daytona 500 in the No. 1 Chevrolet Bass Pro Shops/Tracker Boats car, leading by only two laps, the least in the race's history.

Jamie McMurray started stock car racing in the early 1990s on tracks in Bolivar, Missouri; Lebanon, Missouri; and at the I-70 Speedway in Odessa, Missouri. In 1992, at age 16, McMurray began driving NASCAR late models and raced in the NASCAR RE/MAX Challenge Series in 1998–1999. By age 21 he had won the NASCAR late model division on the Lebanon track. In 1999 he began racing on the NASCAR Craftsman Truck Series circuit.

McMurray's breakthrough came three years later, when he was offered a full-time Busch Series ride. He earned two victories on the Busch Circuit and finished sixth in series points. In 2003 as a NASCAR regular, he was Rookie of the Year.

When NASCAR Sprint Cup Series driver Sterling Marlin was out with an injury, owner Chip Ganassi offered McMurray the seat to complete the 2002 season. It didn't take long for Jamie to make his mark on the sport. In his second race with Ganassi in Charlotte, North Carolina, McMurray won the UAW-GM Quality 500 at Lowe's Motor Speedway.

Now in his ninth season, McMurray is racing for the new Earnhardt Ganassi team. In his first race of the season, he scored a victory in the granddaddy of all stock car racing events: the Daytona 500.

Every racing fan in Southwest Missouri was thrilled that McMurray won the race in a No. 1 Chevrolet Bass Pro Shops/Tracker Boats car from the Southwest Missouri-based company. McMurray endured years of hard work on local tracks to earn his way into the winner's circle of America's greatest stock car event.

For NASCAR fans in Southwest Missouri, I want to offer my congratulations to Jamie McMurray, Bass Pro Shops/Tracker Boats, and to their families and supporters.

TEEN DATING VIOLENCE
AWARENESS MONTH**HON. DAVID G. REICHERT**

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 25, 2010

Mr. REICHERT. Madam Speaker, I ask that we take the time to recognize the importance of Teen Dating Violence Awareness Month. This is an increasingly critical issue that has a devastating effect on our schools, families, and most importantly the victims of this horrifying crime.

The fact is that teens are at a higher risk than adults—half of reported date rapes occur among teenagers. Every year, nearly 1.5 million high school students experience physical abuse from a dating partner.

This violence against another human being breaks our hearts and should never be tolerated.

We took an important step to help these victims with the passage of my Amendment 20 to H.R. 2847, which provided funding to the Supporting Teens through Education and Protection (STEP) program to help schools combat sexual harassment.

Every young person deserves relationships based on respect, and Teen Dating Violence Awareness Month is a time to draw needed attention to this important issue. By educating our youth about the importance of safe and healthy relationships, raising awareness among those who care for them, and supporting the community services that aid victims, we can help to prevent this tragic cycle of abuse.

EXPRESSING CONDOLENCES AND
CELEBRATING THE LIFE OF
CHARLYE OLA FARRIS**HON. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 25, 2010

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Charlye Ola Farris who passed away on February 18, 2010, and was the first African-American to serve as a Southern judge in any capacity since Reconstruction.

Charlye Farris was born in Wichita Falls, Texas. Her father, a bastion in his own right, was the first African-American school superintendent in Texas, and her mother served as an elementary school teacher for 49 years. She graduated as the valedictorian from Booker T. Washington High School in 1945 at the age of 15 and went on to complete a bachelor of arts degree in political science from Prairie View A&M College.

After spending a year teaching school, Mrs. Farris decided to pursue her dreams of obtaining a law degree. At the time, it was almost impossible for an African-American woman to gain admittance to a law school, but through hard work and determination she was accepted to the University of Denver. After her first year, she transferred to Howard University in Washington, DC, and graduated in 1953. Shortly thereafter, Mrs. Farris returned to Texas to take the Bar exam, and after passing, she was sworn in, making her the first Af-

rican-American woman to be licensed to practice law in Texas.

Mrs. Farris did not spend long celebrating, and after moving back to Wichita Falls, she took up practice in an office near the railroad tracks on the city's east side. She endured countless civil rights atrocities that would shock most people today but to her were very real. With great perseverance, she established a reputation for herself, and on July 7, 1954, members of the Wichita County Bar Association elected her to serve as Special Wichita County Judge. This made her the first African-American to serve as a judge in any capacity in the South since Reconstruction.

Mrs. Farris continued her career as a solo practitioner until she closed her office in January 2010. As a woman of faith, she was active in her church until her death and was involved in countless organizations from the local to the national level. Her life included many firsts, and she will be truly missed.

Madam Speaker, the work of Charlye Farris will truly echo through the generations as so many women and minorities have benefitted from her famous first steps. I ask my fellow colleagues today to join me in recognizing her many achievements and celebrating a life that has had such a positive impact on society.

HONORING WALTER GAMEWELL
WATSON**HON. J. GRESHAM BARRETT**

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 25, 2010

Mr. BARRETT of South Carolina. Madam Speaker, I rise today to acknowledge the 100th birthday of Walter Gamewell Watson. Dr. Watson, known as "Curly" to his friends, is said to be the oldest known working physician in the United States. I, along with the communities of both North Augusta, South Carolina, and Augusta, Georgia, am taking this opportunity to celebrate both his life and his faithful, compassionate service to his fellow man.

Dr. Watson was born in 1910 in the small agricultural community of Ridge Spring, South Carolina. His father was a farmer and postmaster of the local post office. Dr. Watson's mother was a schoolteacher. He grew up milking cows and plowing fields. Like many of his peers, he studied agriculture, and it was his good fortune to actually study under the late senior South Carolina Senator, Strom Thurmond, who was a teacher at the time.

After high school, Walter Watson attended the Citadel in Charleston, South Carolina, where he played football and excelled academically. Upon finishing college, he returned to Edgefield County, and for 5 years, he served as both the principal and football coach at Edgefield County High School and later went to work in the school system of Bainbridge, Georgia.

While working in the educational field, Walter Watson saved money for medical school. He eventually attended the Medical College of Georgia and graduated in 1943. He did his internship and residency at the University Hospital and was board certified in Obstetrics and Gynecology.

Dr. Watson served in the Army as an Army physician from 1945 to 1947. After being dis-

charged from the Army, he returned home to join the medical practice established by the late J.W. Thurmond, M.D.

For more than 60 years, Dr. Watson has practiced at the University Hospital in Augusta, Georgia. He has delivered an estimated 15,000 babies. His reputation of excellence at the hospital and his care and concern for his patients has been so notable that a wing of the hospital was named after him. The W.G. Watson, M.D., Women's Center was dedicated in 1999.

Other notable achievements include his marriage to Audrey, and their four daughters and one son. Dr. Watson is also the oldest living graduate of the Citadel.

Today, I celebrate Dr. Watson's birthday as well as his longtime service to his community, his State and his Nation. God bless you, Dr. Watson.

COMMEMORATING TAIWAN'S 2-28
INCIDENT**HON. KENNY MARCHANT**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 25, 2010

Mr. MARCHANT. Madam Speaker, I rise today to observe the 63rd commemoration this coming Sunday of Taiwan's "2-28 Incident." The Incident was an antigovernment uprising in Taiwan that began on February 28, 1947, and was violently suppressed during the following weeks by soldiers that had been sent from China by Generalissimo Chiang Kai-shek. Estimates of the number of deaths vary from 10,000 to 30,000.

In the fall of 1945, 50 years of Japanese occupation of Taiwan ended after Japan had lost World War II. In October of that year Taiwan was returned to the Republic of China (ROC).

Due to the mounting corruption and the implementation of unfair public policy and official practices on the indigenous population, tension increased between the Taiwanese people and the ROC administration. According to Ambassador John L. Stuart, "the economic deterioration of the island and administration of the mainland officials became so bad that on February 28th, 1947, popular resentment erupted into a major rebellion." The flashpoint came on the evening of February 27, 1947, when in Taipei a dispute between a female cigarette vendor and certain armed Monopoly Bureau agents and special police agents triggered civil disorder and open rebellion that lasted for days.

The Incident is now openly discussed and commemorated as Peace Memorial Day. The details of the Incident have become the subject of investigation. Monuments and memorial parks to the Incident victims have been erected in a number of cities in Taiwan.

Madam Speaker, the Incident had far-reaching implications. Over the next half century, the Taiwanese democracy movement that grew out of the Incident helped pave the way for Taiwan's momentous transformation to a thriving and pluralistic democracy. Nowadays Taiwan has demonstrated the strength of its democracy by succeeding in peaceful handovers of power. I am confident that Taiwan will continue to make contributions to the development of democracy in the region.

Madam Speaker, I hope Members will join me in commemorating this important historical event.

TRIBUTE TO THE UNI-CAPITOL
WASHINGTON INTERNSHIP PRO-
GRAMME

HON. JAMES L. OBERSTAR

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 25, 2010

Mr. OBERSTAR. Madam Speaker, I rise today to celebrate a unique international exchange program, one in which the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure has participated since its inception 11 years ago.

The Uni-Capitol Washington Internship Programme (UCWIP) matches a dozen of Australia's best university students to Congressional offices for 2-month, full-time internships each January and February. The program is nonpartisan, bicameral, and focuses on connecting people for lasting education and mutual understanding. It is a true exchange that regards its participants as young professionals looking to enter the working world with a head start of sophistication, personal growth, and international sensibilities.

The Australian interns bring a hunger for knowledge and a passion to understand our national legislature from the inside out. They provide valuable perspectives on the public policy issues and challenges that they face in their own country. They leave with an unfettered knowledge of Congress and the individuals who serve the American public.

I've been a proud host of an astounding quintet of Australia's finest student interns: Narelle Hards from Flinders University in Adelaide, South Australia, in 2000; Louise Squire from the University of Western Australia in Perth in 2004; Lauren Reed from Deakin University, in the Melbourne metropolitan area of Victoria, in 2005; Michael Ng from the University of Melbourne, in 2007; and this year, Clara Jordan-Baird, of the University of Melbourne.

Each has brought with them knowledge of and passion for transportation. I recall vividly, for example, how Lauren Reed briefed Committee staff about her home state of Victoria and its compelling anti-drunk driving campaign. Narelle, Louise, Lauren, Michael, and Clara have each contributed broadly and directly to United States-Australia relations thanks to their insights, observation, and helping hands as our Committee workload demanded.

I know that many offices on both sides of the aisle have enjoyed similar experiences with these young Australians. And I know that the Australians have taken home with them a deep sense of reality about the United States so often impeded by what Australians refer to as the "Tyranny of Distance," the physical geographic distance between our two great nations. Despite all of today's technological wonders—from air travel to Facebook—there is still no substitute for a handshake and warm welcome.

For this program we have to thank a long-time former congressional staffer, Eric K. Federing. Eric served as the Committee's communications director in the mid-1990s. During his personal travels to Australia, Eric discovered what he perceived to be a small, but important, gap in Australia-American relationships and he designed this program to help fill it.

Madam Speaker, we should encourage these types of international exchanges. The

more that we can arrange for the finest students and young professionals from around the world to spend some meaningful time among us, the better that we will understand them and they will understand us.

Both the U.S. and Australian governments have been supportive of UCWIP. Many other statements have appeared in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD over the years and there have been two speeches in the Australian Parliament in recognition of the program. I have been a very proud participant and look forward to being one for many years to come.

TRIBUTE TO THE LATE GENERAL
OMAR NELSON BRADLEY

HON. BLAINE LUETKEMEYER

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 25, 2010

Mr. LUETKEMEYER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the late General Omar Nelson Bradley, hero of World War II, America's last surviving five-star General, first Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, and a proud son of Randolph County in the heart of Missouri's 9th Congressional District. It will be my honor and privilege to participate in the celebration and observance of "General Omar Bradley Day" in Moberly, Missouri on Friday, February 12, 2010, the General's birthday. An event to commemorate Moberly's favorite son will be held at the Moberly High School and a reproduction of the portrait of General Bradley, which is in the Bradley corridor at the Pentagon in Washington, D.C., will be unveiled and will hang in the foyer of the Moberly High School auditorium, on the south end of the school campus.

I would like to recognize the members of the General Omar Nelson Bradley Library and Museum Committee for arranging Friday's celebration and for their tireless efforts to promote awareness of General Bradley's special connection to Moberly. The members of the committee are Chair Sam Richardson, City Councilman Dick Boots, City Manager Andy Morris, Russ Freed, Wayne Wilcox, Joe Knaebel, Howard Hils, and Mary Lee Noel.

I would also like to enter an excerpt from the following article, "General Bradley Day Here Friday" into the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD. This item appeared in the Monday, February 8, 2010 edition of the Moberly Monitor-Index.

GENERAL BRADLEY DAY HERE FRIDAY

General of the Armies Bradley was born in rural Randolph County near Clark, on February 12, 1893. He moved to Moberly at age nine and graduated from Moberly High School in 1911. As Moberly High School's most distinguished alum, General Bradley went on to become a member of the United States Military Academy class in 1915 and was one of its most outstanding scholars, as well as a football and baseball star.

He commanded the largest American army ever assembled, during the invasion of Europe in 1944, led the Veterans Administration after World War II, was named Army chief of staff in 1948 and in 1949 was promoted by President Harry Truman to first chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff. He served two terms as chairman of the Joint Chiefs. Bradley was the youngest and last of nine American military officers to earn the coveted fifth star.

After retirement from active duty, General Bradley was chairman and chief executive officer for the Bulova Watch Corp. Under his leadership, Bulova developed the Accutron watch, which was first developed for America's military and fledgling space program.

Bradley died in New York City on April 8, 1981. He had participated in the inauguration of his friend, President Ronald W. Reagan, in Washington in late January 1981. Among those at his state funeral at Arlington National Cemetery was longtime friend and internationally acclaimed comedian Bob Hope. An avid golfer and fan of horse racing, and lifetime fan of baseball and college football, Bradley lived his final years in special quarters built for him at Fort Bliss, near El Paso, Texas. Both the Sun Bowl at El Paso and the Independence Bowl at Shreveport honored Gen. Bradley during his lifetime and in the years since his death.

The event at Moberly High School Friday is sponsored by the General Omar Nelson Bradley Library and Museum Committee, a citizen panel organized by the Moberly City Council last year to bring recognition to the community's favorite son.

In an October 1966 letter to former Moberly Mayor Will Ben Sims, General Bradley—a man known for his humility and modesty—wrote that he accepted the fact he was Moberly's "favorite son" and that he and Mrs. Kitty Bradley viewed Moberly as their most favorite city in the whole world.

He was an honorary member of the Moberly Country Club and Moberly Rotary Club and longtime member of the Central Christian Church, where he grew up.

IN HONOR OF AGNES TEBO

HON. SAM FARR

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 25, 2010

Mr. FARR. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor a great American, Mrs. Agnes Tebo for a lifetime of public service and civil rights activism. This coming Saturday, the Monterey County Branch of the NAACP will honor Mrs. Tebo with its President's award. I will have the great pleasure of attending this ceremony and in conveying to her the gratitude and best wishes of the House. I am particularly excited because I have been privileged for many years to count myself among her friends. Indeed, she has been a great role model and inspiration to several generations of public servants from Monterey County. And that remains true today; at 95 Agnes Tebo is truly one of our nation's great treasures.

Born October 25, 1914, in Port Arthur, Texas, Agnes Dronet grew up in a world dominated by Jim Crow's pervasive injustice. As a child, she remembers learning to live with the separate schools, restaurants, and other humiliations that so dominated the daily lives of Port Arthur's African American citizens. More ominously, Agnes can remember the climate of fear created by the Klu Klux Klan through murders, cross burnings, and other terrorist acts. She recently told a reporter that "we had to walk a straight line or we knew we'd end up dead. The people who did it would brag about it, and nobody would do anything about it. The law wasn't enforced. As a child, I just accepted it. I just thought that's how life was." But that did not mean that Agnes thought it was right. In 1937, at the age of 23, Agnes found her way to Salinas, California, after a childhood spent working to help her single mother

support their family. She soon found work as a housekeeper for one of the City's founding families. Several years later years later, she married Louis "Bonnie" Tebo, a former classmate from Port Arthur who had also relocated to Salinas. They were married for more than 50 years when he died.

While less obvious than in the South of their childhood, racism still found Agnes and Bonnie in Salinas. For example, African Americans found it next to impossible to buy property. Realtors simply refused to show, and sellers to sell, property to African American buyers. Agnes had been a member of the NAACP since her teenage years in Port Arthur. She drew on that experience in 1939 to co-found a Salinas branch. With so few African Americans living in Salinas, they had to recruit white friends to join in order to meet the fifty member threshold for a new chapter. The new branch took on the property issue and made steady progress. With Agnes often leading the way over the years, they took on many other challenges facing people of color in the Salinas valley. In 2006, Agnes helped smooth the way for the Salinas and Monterey Peninsula branches to merge together into the Monterey County Branch.

Despite her humble origins, Agnes has managed to travel the world and devote countless hours to aiding the needy. In 1981, for example, she and Bonnie helped purchase and distribute food, clothing and medicine to 1,200 people in Haiti. She works as a liaison for the NAACP's Jan Wright Scholarship, and she continues to support The Agnes and Bonne Tebo Scholarship at Hartnell College.

Madam Speaker, I know that I speak for the whole House in extending to Agnes Tebo our deep gratitude for her work to improve the lives of her neighbors, both in Salinas and around the world.

TRIBUTE TO WIL BILLINGTON,
TRUSTEE EMERITUS OF JOHN-
SON COUNTY COMMUNITY COL-
LEGE

HON. DENNIS MOORE

OF KANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 25, 2010

Mr. MOORE of Kansas. Madam Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to Wilbur "Wil" Billington, a former trustee of Johnson County, Kansas, Community College [JCCC], who recently was honored by JCCC's board of trustees with the designation of "trustee emeritus", signifying an individual who demonstrated significant contributions to the college and the community as a trustee.

As a former elected trustee of JCCC, I know Wil Billington and am pleased to have this opportunity to support his award and to share news of it with my colleagues. The JCCC recently issued a news release detailing Wil Billington's designation as "trustee emeritus." I include it with this statement and I know that all House members join with me in celebrating this award, which is richly deserved by a Johnson Countian who has worked diligently in support of higher education and economic development in our community.

BILLINGTON NAMED JCCC TRUSTEE EMERITUS

OVERLAND PARK, Kan.—At their meeting Jan. 21, the Johnson County Community

College board of trustees named Wilbur "Wil" Billington as a trustee emeritus. The trustee emeritus designation is intended to recognize former trustees who demonstrated significant contributions to the college and the community as a trustee.

Billington was nominated by Terry A. Calaway, JCCC president, and Ben Craig, a longtime supporter of JCCC, who cited Billington's support of education in the state of Kansas and in Johnson County. Billington is the second trustee to receive emeritus recognition. The first was Virginia Krebs, who was named trustee emeritus in October 2008. Billington will be honored in person at a future board meeting.

"Wil Billington's vision as a trustee gave Johnson County Community College a secure foundation on which to build," Calaway said. "Naming him as a trustee emeritus is a fitting way to remember and honor his educational leadership."

From 1962 to 1968 Billington was a member and president of the local board for School District No. 110, one of the largest K-6 school districts in Johnson County before its consolidation as part of the unified Shawnee Mission district. As such, Billington was appointed to the Advisory Council for Community Colleges that made recommendations to the Kansas Board of Education for the creation of new colleges under the Kansas Community College Act of 1965. He served as chairman of the Master Planning Committee for Post-secondary Education in Kansas in the early 1970s.

In Johnson County, Billington was asked by the county commissioners to chair a committee that would study the feasibility of creating a community college here. The group published a written report unanimously recommending the creation of such a college in Johnson County. Billington was elected to the college's first board of trustees in 1967, receiving the largest plurality of votes among approximately 30 candidates, serving from 1967 until 1975. As chairman of the board, Billington and his fellow trustees produced the college's "Blue Book," a working philosophy that helped guide the selection of administrators and the development of the college's curriculum for the following decades.

In January 2000, the JCCC library was named for Billington in recognition of his years of support of the college.

Billington worked for the Federal Reserve Bank of Kansas City for 35 years, retiring as executive vice president.

"THE SOCIAL SECURITY DIS-
ABILITY APPLICANTS' PROFES-
SIONAL REPRESENTATION ACT
OF 2009"

HON. LAURA RICHARDSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 25, 2010

Ms. RICHARDSON. Madam Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 4532, the Social Security Disability Applicants' Access to Professional Representation Act of 2009, which will authorize the permanent extension of the attorney and non-attorney fee-withholding provisions passed under the Social Security Protection Act of 2004. This important legislation will guarantee that seniors have access to the professional representation needed to secure the benefits that they deserve.

I thank Chairman RANGEL for his leadership in bringing this bill to the floor. I would also like to thank the author of this legislation, Con-

gressman TANNER, for his hard work and determined efforts to ensure that Americans are able to achieve financial security and stability in their old age.

Madam Speaker, for seniors, getting Social Security benefits can be a rigorous process. Many seniors rely on professional representatives to help them complete applications, obtain medical evidence, and prepare themselves and other witnesses for hearings. H.R. 4532 will permanently extend critical provisions passed under the Social Security Protection Act of 2004 that allow representation fees to be withheld from Social Security Insurance (SSI) applicants' past-due benefits and paid directly to representatives. H.R. 4532 will also extend provisions that make qualified non-attorney representatives eligible to be paid through fee-withholding.

The provisions set to be extended by H.R. 4532 will provide easy access to the qualified representation that many seniors need in order to secure their benefits. This legislation is especially important in these tough economic times. With limited income and increased health care needs, seniors across the country—and especially in my home State of California—have been hit particularly hard by the ongoing economic recession. Now, more than ever, we need to help the elderly access the benefits that they need to achieve financial stability.

In conclusion, I support this bill because it will make the Social Security system more fair and easy to use for the 63,000 seniors in my district and millions more across the country. In order to uphold our obligation to senior citizens we must provide them with the resources needed to take advantage of available benefits. By helping senior citizens get the benefits they need, the Social Security Disability Applicants' Access to Professional Representation Act of 2009 represents a much needed response to our Nation's current economic challenges.

Madam Speaker, I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting H.R. 4532.

TRIBUTE TO OUTSTANDING LIFE-
TIME ACHIEVEMENT AWARD
WINNER JOE ANDERSON

HON. KEN CALVERT

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 25, 2010

Mr. CALVERT. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor and pay tribute to an individual whose dedication and contributions to the community of San Clemente, California are exceptional. San Clemente has been fortunate to have dynamic and dedicated community leaders who willingly and unselfishly give their time and talent and make their communities a better place to live and work. Joe Anderson is one such individual. On February 25, 2010, Joe will be honored at the San Clemente Chamber of Commerce Annual Meeting and Award Ceremony where he will receive the 2009 Outstanding Lifetime Achievement Award.

Joe was raised in Southern California and graduated from Arizona State University with a B.S. Degree in Economics. He is a Chartered Life Underwriter, a professional designation conferred by the American College, Bryn

Mawr, Pennsylvania. Following graduation, Joe was employed by Mobil Oil Corporation for eleven years. During his employment with Mobil he held a number of management positions in various locations in the United States, including Los Angeles, Seattle, New York City and Sacramento.

In 1976, Joe and his family relocated to South Orange County where he opened a successful State Farm Insurance Agency in San Clemente. After operating his agency for ten years, Joe accepted a management position with the company. During the last decade of his career, Joe held an executive level assignment with responsibility for all agency operations in South Orange County. He retired in 2005 after 29 loyal years with the firm.

Joe's community activities include: past board member and President of the San Clemente Chamber of Commerce, the South Coast Area Boys & Girls Club and Mary Erickson Community Housing. He served on the San Clemente Growth Management, Economic Development and General Plan Review Committees. He chaired the Casa Romantica Feasibility Study, and co-chaired the Downtown Visioning Committee. Due to his many years of service, Joe was named the 1993 San Clemente Citizen of the Year.

Joe was first elected to the San Clemente City Council in 1990, where he served two terms and then stepped down in 1998. In 2002, at the urging of members of the community, Joe ran and was elected to a third term. He was re-elected in November 2006 for a fourth term. Joe served as Mayor in 1992, 2005 and 2008.

Joe serves as San Clemente's Trustee to the Orange County Vector Control Agency, and represents San Clemente on the board of the California Joint Powers Insurance Authority. He also serves on the City's Investment Advisory Board, and is board alternate to the Transportation Corridor Agencies. During 2005 and 2006, he chaired the Communications and Outreach Committee of the Orange County Division, League of California Cities for the renewal of Measure M. In November, 2006, Measure M passed with a 69.6% yes vote.

Joe and his wife of 45 years, Mary Anna, are the proud parents of three married sons. John, a Lieutenant Colonel in the United States Marine Corps; Charles, an Estimating Manager for a large electrical contractor; and Robert, an entrepreneur. The Anderson's have five beautiful grandchildren.

Joe Anderson's tireless passion for community service has contributed immensely to the betterment of the community of San Clemente, California. I am proud to call Joe a fellow community member, American and friend. I know that many community members are grateful for his service and salute him as he receives the San Clemente Chamber of Commerce Outstanding Lifetime Achievement Award.

RECOGNIZING THE SONDGEROTH'S 67TH WEDDING ANNIVERSARY

HON. DARRELL E. ISSA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 25, 2010

Mr. ISSA. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to a special couple from Mendota, Illinois, Lester and Mary Rita Sondgeroth, on

the celebration of their sixty-seventh wedding anniversary. The love and dedication required through 67 years of marriage is a shining example of what a bond as strong as theirs can achieve, and I commend them on all those special years together. This is truly a significant milestone and one that only a very few are fortunate enough to celebrate in their lifetime.

Lester and Mary Rita Sondgeroth were united in marriage on February 10, 1943 at the Holy Cross Church in Mendota where the couple has made their home to this day. Throughout the years, the Sondgeroths were blessed with five children—the late Dean Sondgeroth, the late Dianna Neisess, Debra Peters, Dru Sondgeroth, and Denise Burnette. They now have the pleasure of spending time with their five grandchildren—Scott Peters, Adam Peters, Brandon Burnette, Austin Burnette, and lastly Ryan Peters who I am proud to say is an outstanding member of my District Office staff in Vista, California.

A 67th wedding anniversary reminds us that marriage is not an instant achievement but a covenant that requires love, patience, and respect. Lester and Mary Rita Sondgeroth have perfected this commitment to each other and are truly blessed to have a strong marriage, their family, and a lifetime of memories. As they live each day by their wedding vows, they continue to inspire all who are fortunate to know them.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating Lester and Mary Rita Sondgeroth on this momentous occasion and sending our best wishes for many more years of love and happiness.

IN HONOR OF HIS EMINENCE CARDINAL JOSIP BOZANIĆ

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 25, 2010

Mr. KUCINICH. Madam Speaker, please join me in honor and recognition of Cardinal Josip Bozanic, Croatian Cardinal of the Roman Catholic Church, upon his visit to the American-Croatian Lodge, Inc. of Cleveland, Ohio. The Croatian Lodge of Cleveland is a vibrant cultural center where the history and traditions of Croatia have been promoted and preserved for twenty-five years.

Cardinal Bozanic was born and raised in Rijeka, Yugoslavia (now Croatia). His parents, Ivan Bozanic and Dinka Vlakovic, taught him the values of hard work, faith and service to others. On June 29th, 1975, Cardinal Bozanic was ordained to the priesthood, by Bishop Karmelo Zazinovic. He served as a parish priest for several years before going to Rome where he earned a licentiate in dogmatic theology from the Pontifical Gregorian University, and then a licentiate in canon law from the Pontifical Lateran University.

Cardinal Bozanic returned to Yugoslavia, where he served as chancellor and then vicar general of the Diocese of Krk. From 1988 to 1997, he taught dogmatic theology and canon law at the Theological Institute of Rijeka. On May 10, 1989, Cardinal Bozanic was appointed Coadjutor Bishop of Krk by Pope John Paul II. On October 21, 2003, Pope John Paul II appointed him as Cardinal Priest of San

Girolamo dei Croati. Cardinal Bozanic was a member of the Cardinal Electors of the 2005 Papal Conclave that selected Pope Benedict XVI.

Madam Speaker and colleagues, please join me in honor and recognition of His Eminence, Cardinal Josip Bozanic, whose journey to Cleveland, Ohio to commemorate the 25th Anniversary of the American-Croatian Lodge, Inc. is greatly appreciated by all residents of Northeast Ohio.

RECOGNIZING THE 20TH ANNIVERSARY OF "THE SIMPSONS"

HON. MIKE QUIGLEY

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 25, 2010

Mr. QUIGLEY. Madam Speaker, I rise today to acknowledge the anniversary of an important milestone in our shared cultural history.

December 17, 2009 marked the 20th anniversary of the debut episode of "The Simpsons." The Fox Broadcasting Company, which airs the show, spent the entirety of 2009 commemorating this milestone, and ended the celebration on January 10, 2010 with an hour-long special.

In 1989, Fox took a chance and gave "The Simpsons" creator Matt Groening an opportunity to produce a half-hour primetime animated show for the network.

Since then, the program has become world renowned. It has been honored with 25 Primetime Emmy awards, a Peabody award, and was named the 20th century's best television series by Time Magazine.

It holds the distinction of being the longest running American animated program, the longest running American sitcom, and the longest running American primetime television program. In 2007, a feature-length film entitled "The Simpsons Movie" was released to worldwide box office success.

While the show is renowned for its cultural references, it has achieved a cultural iconic status in its own right. A testament to this is the addition of "Doh," a frequently used exclamation of the show's lead character Homer Simpson, to the Oxford English Dictionary in 2001.

Madam Speaker, I congratulate "The Simpsons" on its milestone, and I thank creators Matt Groening, James L. Brooks and Al Jean for the many years of laughs and the many more to come.

MEDIA IMAGES THAT DETRIMENTALLY AFFECT MANY GIRLS' SELF-ESTEEM

HON. LINDA T. SÁNCHEZ

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 25, 2010

Ms. LINDA T. SÁNCHEZ of California. Madam Speaker, I rise today to address an issue that many girls struggle with well into adulthood: media images that detrimentally affect their self-esteem.

We all know how important it is to help raise our young women to become able, self-confident people, for their own sake and for the benefit of our society.

We have about 30 million girls under the age of 20 living in the United States. Thirty million wonderful and beautiful people, full of creativity, energy and dreams. Yet these girls face a struggle with unrealistic beauty and body image standards.

Findings from a recent survey conducted by the Girl Scout Research Institute show that 90 percent of girls feel pressure from the media to have an ideal body type. Ninety percent. As a result, their self-esteem, their body image, and their psychological and physical health are damaged when they do not measure up to these unrealistic beauty standards.

We must elevate girls' voices and concerns. Our daughters and granddaughters need to see more girl-positive media, more natural and real female role models instead of touched-up, airbrushed models.

The Girl Scouts of America on February 10, 2010—the eve of fashion week—hosted an event in New York City promoting messages that feature girls and women who have healthy, diverse body images and participate in respectful and healthy relationships. I commend the Girl Scouts for the important work they do in creating a healthy environment for young girls and women.

Our support on this issue will help support girls' physical, emotional, and social health. Let us join the Girl Scouts in empowering girls to live healthy lives and become tomorrow's leaders with courage, confidence, and character.

OUR UNCONSCIONABLE NATIONAL DEBT

HON. MIKE COFFMAN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 25, 2010

Mr. COFFMAN of Colorado. Madam Speaker, today our national debt is \$12,401,781,166,870.02.

On January 6th, 2009, the start of the 111th Congress, the national debt was \$10,638,425,746,293.80.

This means the national debt has increased by \$1,763,355,420,576.20 so far this Congress.

This debt and its interest payments we are passing to our children and all future Americans.

HONORING DR. MARY J. CLINKSCALE

HON. LEE TERRY

OF NEBRASKA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 25, 2010

Mr. TERRY. Madam Speaker, I rise today to join my colleagues in recognition of Black History Month, a time when we remember the important contributions African Americans have made to our nation. I especially want to honor some extraordinary people who continue to help shape my community of Omaha. I have the privilege of representing thousands of successful and talented African Americans, and today I would like to pay special tribute to Dr. Mary J. Clinkscale.

"Dr. C," as she is commonly referred to, is the administrator of the Greater Beth-El Tem-

ple where she has planned, produced and directed more than 250 theatrical productions and presentations, including a performance to prelude the Tuskegee Airmen receiving their Congressional Gold Medal. Her work led to the formation of the Growing and Building Together (GBT) Academy of the Arts, which has been successful in introducing young people and adults to careers in arts and education. She is also the administrator of the GBT Children's Academy, which provides a unique learning environment with a diverse curriculum that allows parents, teachers and children to work and grow together. Dr. C has earned several community-awarded honors for her outstanding work.

Thank you, Dr. Mary J. Clinkscale, for your commitment to making Omaha a much better place. Your work has made a difference to our community, especially children and young people.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE ASSOCIATED FOOD AND PETROLEUM DEALERS ON CELEBRATING ITS 100TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. GARY C. PETERS

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 25, 2010

Mr. PETERS. Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me today in celebrating the 100th anniversary of the Associated Food and Petroleum Dealers (AFPD). As a Member of Congress, it is both my honor and privilege to recognize the AFPD on achieving this most impressive milestone.

Since its founding in 1910, the AFPD has acted as a strong advocate for the food, beverage and petroleum industries in the State of Michigan. Based in my district, in the city of Farmington Hills, the AFPD currently represents 3900 retailers in the States of Michigan and Ohio. The AFPD boasts a diverse membership ranging from independent supermarkets, convenience stores, service stations and auto repair businesses to the wholesalers, distributors, and manufacturers who support them. Many of the small businesses which the AFPD supports are important economic and philanthropic pillars within our shared communities.

Going beyond advocacy for its respective industries, the AFPD established the AFPD Foundation in 1999 to support the philanthropic work of its members in the communities which it serves. To date, the AFPD Foundation has awarded over \$300,000 in academic scholarships to extraordinary and deserving students in the States of Michigan and Ohio who are attending accredited higher learning institutions. The AFPD Foundation also partners with the Salvation Army during the holidays to promote its Red Kettle program, which allows the Salvation Army to provide food, toys, and clothing to families in need.

Madam Speaker, it is my privilege to recognize the Associated Food and Petroleum Dealers on the occasion of celebrating its 100th anniversary. The philanthropic work of the AFPD Foundation has enriched the lives of many within the communities its members serve. The celebration of the AFPD's 100th anniversary is indeed an impressive milestone

and I wish it and its members many, many more successful and productive years to come.

HONORING ULYSSES CURRY, M.D.

HON. GEORGE RADANOVICH

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 25, 2010

Mr. RADANOVICH. Madam Speaker, I rise today to commend and congratulate Ulysses Curry, M.D. upon being honored with the "Trail Blazers Award" by the African American Museum. Dr. Curry will be honored at the African American History Month Celebration and Banquet on Saturday, February 6th, 2010 in Fresno, California.

Dr. Ulysses "U.S." Curry was born the seventh of eight children to Reverend Dr. Milton K. Curry Sr. and Lena Easter Curry in Fort Worth, Texas. Dr. Curry attended the University of Kansas.

Before completing his education, Dr. Curry joined the United States Army. He served in the Medical Corps during World War II from 1943 through 1946. Upon his Army discharge, Dr. Curry continued his education by attending Howard University and the University of Kansas in Lawrence. Finally, Dr. Curry completed his medical degree in 1952 from Meharry Medical College in Nashville, Tennessee. He completed his medical internships in Raleigh, North Carolina, Fresno, California and Denver, Colorado.

In 1954, Dr. Curry married Mary Roper. Two years after they married, Dr. and Mrs. Curry, along with their three week old son, moved to Fresno, California and Dr. Curry started his practice. Dr. Curry had served the Fresno area as a practicing physician for fifty years when he retired in 2006.

Outside of his practice, Dr. Curry was active in city, state and national medical organizations. He served as a Fellow of the American Academy of Family Physicians and Diplomate American Board, Family Practice. Dr. Curry continues to be an active member of the Second Baptist Church of Fresno and in various community activities. Dr. Curry is heavily involved with Fresno's commitment to the United Negro College Fund, believing in the cause that "A mind is a terrible thing to waste."

Dr. and Mrs. Curry have five children, all of which have obtained Bachelors Degrees from four year universities. They also have four grandchildren; three are currently in college and one in high school.

Madam Speaker, I rise today to commend and congratulate Dr. Ulysses Curry upon being honored with the "Trail Blazers Award." I invite my colleagues to join me in wishing Dr. Curry many years of continued success.

IN HONOR OF THE 25TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE AMERICAN-CROATIAN LODGE, INC.

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 25, 2010

Mr. KUCINICH. Madam Speaker, I rise today in recognition of the members of the

American-Croatian Lodge, located in Eastlake, Ohio, as they celebrate their 25th anniversary. The American-Croatian Lodge, Inc. serves as a connector that binds Croatian Americans to their faith, heritage and history.

The Croatian Lodge, Inc. was developed and built by a small group of Croatian Americans residing in Greater Cleveland with a unified focus of promoting business ventures, partnerships and educational opportunities for Americans of Croatian heritage. The Lodge continues to serve as an anchor for the Greater Cleveland Croatian community and as the "home base" for numerous Croatian-American businesses. The Croatian Center, set on picturesque rural acreage in Chardon, Ohio, includes two soccer fields, a full size ball field, picnic areas, and a smaller field next to a pavilion. The Lodge is open to the public and is a venue for families and organizations celebrating milestone moments.

A critical component of the American-Croatian Lodge, Inc. is the Croatian Heritage Museum & Library, where the history, customs, fashion, art, music and faith of Croatia is presented and preserved. The Museum and Library is currently presenting a new folk art exhibit, entitled: "Maiden, Mother, Woman of Wisdom," which illuminates the role of Croatian women.

Mr. Speaker and colleagues, please join me celebrating the members of the American-Croatian Lodge, Inc. of Eastlake, Ohio as they celebrate twenty-five years commitment to preserving and promoting Croatian culture. The ancient and rich culture of the Croatian people adds strength to the foundation of our Cleveland community and our nation.

TRIBUTE TO CITIZEN OF THE
YEAR OSCAR GUTIERREZ

HON. KEN CALVERT

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 25, 2010

Mr. CALVERT. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor and pay tribute to an individual whose dedication and contributions to the community of San Clemente, California are exceptional. San Clemente has been fortunate to have dynamic and dedicated young people who willingly and unselfishly give their time and talent and make their communities a better place to live and work. Oscar Gutierrez is one of these young leaders. On February 25, 2010, Oscar will be honored at the San Clemente Chamber of Commerce Annual Meeting and Award Ceremony where he will receive the 2009 Citizen of the Year Award.

Eighteen year old Oscar Gutierrez resides with his mother and sister in San Clemente. Sadly, Oscar lost his father in 2005. At age 13, Oscar started working to help financially support his family. In addition, he joined the Orange County Sheriffs Explorer Program, Post 449. On December 4, 2008, Oscar was home doing his homework when he heard screams coming from outside. He looked out and saw smoke and flames billowing from the apartment building next door. Oscar grabbed a fire extinguisher, and along with his sister and a cousin, who are also Explorers, and ran to help. Sheriffs deputies were evacuating the building so Oscar began checking around to make sure everyone was safe.

It was then that he noticed an elderly couple on a second floor balcony waiting for assistance. Smoke was pouring out of their apartment and they were beginning to panic. The woman was in a wheelchair and the husband seemed frail. The only way down was an exterior flight of stairs. Oscar did not hesitate: he recruited the help of another neighbor, ran up the stairs and carried the woman in her wheelchair down the stairs to safety.

Oscar graduated from San Clemente High School in 2009 and is attending college at California State San Marcos as a Sociology Major. He has received multiple scholarships and also works at Pedro's Tacos. He continues to attend the Explorer Program four times a month. He is the first one in his family to go to college.

Oscar Gutierrez at the young age of 18 is a hero and a model citizen. He is a hard working individual who cares deeply about San Clemente and its citizens. Oscar is truly an incredible young man who has a very bright future. Oscar's actions and selflessness have contributed immensely to the betterment of the community of San Clemente, California. I join the many community members who are grateful for Oscar and salute him as he receives the 2009 Citizen of the Year Award.

IN TRIBUTE TO REPRESENTATIVE
JOHN P. MURTHA OF PENNSYLVANIA

SPEECH OF

HON. ROBERT A. BRADY

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 24, 2010

Mr. BRADY of Pennsylvania. Madam Speaker, thank you for allowing me to say a few words about our friend Jack Murtha. First, I would like to advise Mrs. Murtha that I am her adopted son. I don't know if Jack ever told you (Mom). But, he did adopt me.

He took me under his wing. It was warm in the winter and cool in the summer. He also taught me a few things. He taught me to be courteous to everyone and that everyone is special. He made us all feel special. He was more comfortable with the privates than with the generals. He made everyone feel important.

He would make the little people feel needed and appreciated. He had a great sense of humor and enjoyed telling his stories and jokes. He had a big heart and tremendous compassion for people.

Unfortunately, a whole lot of people—including our illustrious press—never knew that Jack Murtha.

With the exception of his family, I was more fortunate than all of you. Every Thursday or Friday before we broke for the week, I would say goodbye to him. Because of his knee problem, I would help him down from his seat—the only reserved seat in Congress. Then, I would shake his hand and give him a kiss goodbye. I did not know Wednesday January 27th would be the last time I would kiss my friend good bye.

Jack Murtha was your friend. Jack Murtha was the best friend of the men and women in uniform. He will be deeply missed. We will never see another Jack Murtha.

LETTER FROM PROFESSOR ROBERT D. AUERBACH, LBJ SCHOOL OF PUBLIC AFFAIRS AT THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS

HON. RON PAUL

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 25, 2010

Mr. PAUL. Madam Speaker, I would like to enter into the RECORD the following letter from Professor Robert D. Auerbach, a professor at the LBJ School of Public Affairs at the University of Texas. This letter provides additional information regarding remarks I made at yesterday's Financial Services Committee Humphrey-Hawkins hearing, remarks which Federal Reserve Chairman Bernanke categorized as "bizarre."

THANK YOU CONGRESSMAN RON PAUL FOR BRINGING THESE IMPORTANT FACTS TO THE PUBLIC'S ATTENTION

I thank Congressman Ron Paul for bringing to the public's attention the Federal Reserve coverup of the source of the Watergate burglars' source of funding and the defective audit by the Federal Reserve of the bank that transferred \$5.5 billion from the U.S. government to Saddam Hussein in the 1980s. Congressman Paul directed these comments to Federal Reserve Chairman Ben Bernanke at the House Financial Services Hearing February 24, 2010. I question Chairman Bernanke's dismissive response.

BERNANKE: "Well, Congressman, these specific allegations you've made I think are absolutely bizarre, and I have absolutely no knowledge of anything remotely like what you just described."

The evidence Congressman Ron Paul mentioned is well documented in my recent book, *Deception and Abuse at the Fed* (University of Texas Press: 2008). The head of the Federal Reserve bureaucracy should become familiar with its dismal practices.

First, consider the Fed's coverup of the source of the \$6,300 in hundred dollar bills found on the Watergate burglars when they were arrested at approximately 2:30 A.M. on June 17, 1972 after they had broken into the Watergate offices of the Democratic Party. Five days after the break-in, June 22, 1972, at a board of directors' meeting of officials at the Philadelphia Fed Bank, it was recorded in the minutes [shown on page 23 of my book] that false or misleading information had been provided to a reporter from the Washington Post about the \$6,300. Bob Woodward told me he thought he was the Washington Post reporter who had made the phone inquiry. The reporter "had called to verify a rumor that these bills were stolen from this Bank" according to the Philadelphia Fed minutes. The Philadelphia Fed Bank had informed the Board on June 20 that the notes were "shipped from the Reserve Bank to Girard Trust Company in Philadelphia on April 3, 1972." The Washington Post was incorrectly informed of "thefts but told they involved old bills that were ready for destruction."

The Federal Reserve under the chairmanship of Author Burns not only kept the Fed from getting entangled in the Watergate coverup, which the Fed's actions had assisted, it allowed false statements about bills the Fed knew were issued by the Philadelphia Fed Bank to stand uncorrected. Blocking information from the Senate and House Banking Committees [letters shown in my book, Chapter 2] and issuing false information during a perilous government crisis imposed huge costs on the public that had insufficient information to hold the Fed officials accountable for what they had withheld

from the Congress. Had the deception been discovered the Fed chairmen following Burns may have been forced to rapidly implement some real transparency to restore the Fed's credibility. That would have reduced or eliminated many of the deceptions, and corrupt practices that are described in my book.

The second subject brought up by Congressman Ron Paul is the exposure of faulty examinations of the Federal Reserve of a foreign bank in Atlanta, Georgia through which \$5.5 billion was sent to Saddam Hussein that a Federal Judge found to be part of United States active support for Iraq in the 1980s.

On November 9, 1993, several federal marshals brought a prisoner, Christopher Drogoul, into my office at the Rayburn House Office Building of the U.S. House of Representatives. The marshals removed the manacles. Drogoul took off his jump suit and changed into a shirt, tie, and business suit. He immediately looked like the manager of the Atlanta agency with domestic headquarters in New York City of Banca Nazionale. Drogoul had come to testify about a "scheme prosecutors said he masterminded that funneled \$5.5 billion in loans to Iraq's Hussein through BNL's Atlanta operation. Some of the loans allegedly were used to build up Iraq's military and nuclear arsenals in the years preceding the first Gulf War."

Drogoul's "'off book' BNL-Atlanta funding to Iraq began in 1986 as financing for products under Department of Agriculture programs." The loans allegedly had been authorized by the U.S. Department of Agriculture. Since Drogoul told the committee he was merely a tool in an ambitious scheme by the United States, Italy, Britain and Germany to secretly arm Iraq in their 1980-88 war, the testimony was politically contentious and unproven. He was sentenced in November 1993 to 37 months in prison and he had already served 20 months awaiting his sentencing hearing.

U.S. District Judge Ernest Tidwell found that the United States had actively supported Iraq in the 1980s by providing it with government-guaranteed loans even though it wasn't creditworthy. The judge said such policies "clearly facilitated criminal conduct."

Gonzalez was drawn to Drogoul's answer about the Fed examiner who had visited his Atlanta operation. Gonzalez said that:

"At the November 9, 1993 Banking Committee hearing I asked Christopher Drogoul, the convicted official of the Banca Nazionale Del Lavoro agency branch in Atlanta, Georgia, how the Federal Reserve Bank examiners could miss billions of dollars of illegal loans, most of which ended up in the hands of Hussein."

Mr. Drogoul stated:

The task of the Fed [bank examiner] was simply to confirm that the State of Georgia audit revealed no major problems. And thus, their audit of BNL usually consisted of a one or two-day review of the state of Georgia's preliminary results, followed by a cup of espresso in the manager's office."

Gonzalez was appalled at the lack of effective examination of a little storefront bank and also appalled by the gifts exchanged by officers of the New York Federal Reserve and the regulated banks in New York City where the main U.S. office of BNL was located. A description of what followed is in my book.

The Fed voted in 1995 to destroy the source transcripts of its policy making committee that had been sent to National Archives and Records Administration. Chairman Alan Greenspan had the committee vote on this destruction, telling the members: "I am not going to record these votes because we do

not have to. There is no legal requirement." (p. 104 in my book.) Greenspan thus removed any fingerprints on this act of record destruction. Donald Kohn, who is now Vice Chairman of the Board of Governors at the Federal Reserve, answered some questions I had sent to Chairman Greenspan about this destruction. Kohn replied in a letter on November 1, 2001 to me at the University of Texas that they had destroyed the source records for 1994, 1995 and 1996, they did not believe it to be illegal and there was no plan to end this practice. That is one reason why the Federal Reserve audit supported by Congressman Ron Paul is needed. The Fed must stop destroying its records.

A SPECIAL TRIBUTE TO KEN MORROW, MEMBER OF THE 1980 UNITED STATES OLYMPIC GOLD MEDAL HOCKEY TEAM

HON. ROBERT E. LATTA

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 25, 2010

Mr. LATTA. Madam Speaker, it is with great pride that I rise to pay tribute to Ken Morrow, Olympic gold medalist and U.S. Hockey Hall of Fame inductee. The City of Bowling Green, Bowling Green State University, and the greater Northwest Ohio community celebrate this great American athlete.

In an incredible achievement in 1980, Ken Morrow was a member of hockey teams that won an Olympic gold medal and the Stanley Cup. At the age of 23, Ken Morrow was a member of the 1980 USA Miracle on Ice American hockey team that won the gold medal for the United States of America in Lake Placid, New York. Ken Morrow was also a member of the New York Islanders, who won the Stanley Cup in 1980.

A Bowling Green State University alumnus, Ken Morrow was an NCAA West All-American athlete in 1978. Morrow was also named player of the year for the Central Collegiate Hockey Association. He was drafted by the New York Islanders in 1976; however, Morrow remained in college until graduating in 1979.

Ken Morrow played a total of ten seasons in the National Hockey League (NHL). During his professional hockey career he helped the New York Islanders to win four straight Stanley Cup titles. Following his career as a hockey player, Morrow began a coaching career in the NHL. He was later inducted into the United States Hockey Hall of Fame, and in 1996 received the Lester Patrick Award for his accomplishments in the sport of hockey.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in conveying special gratitude to Ken Morrow as we celebrate this accomplished individual. Our communities are well served by great Americans like Ken Morrow. On behalf of the people of the Fifth District of Ohio, I am proud to recognize Ken Morrow.

HEALTH INSURANCE INDUSTRY FAIR COMPETITION ACT

SPEECH OF

HON. BOB ETHERIDGE

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 24, 2010

Mr. ETHERIDGE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 4626, Health Insurance In-

dustry Fair Competition Act. This legislation is another step in Congress' work to reform health care to bring down costs and expand choices for all Americans. Last year, we worked to make sure seniors could keep their doctors by reforming the Medicare payment system. This bill cracks down on insurance companies that are taking advantage of obsolete laws to manipulate premiums. The next step will be to protect North Carolina families from additional insurance company abuses, bring down health care costs and turn around the crushing effects of skyrocketing health care costs on our national debt.

H.R. 4626 will restore competition and transparency to the health insurance market. Competition is the engine that drives our economy, spurs innovation, and ensures that the American consumer receives a fair deal on goods and services. But for far too long, the health insurance industry has played by a different set of rules. Since 1945, the McCarran-Ferguson Act has exempted the business of insurance from federal antitrust laws. This bill repeals that blanket antitrust exemption afforded to health insurance companies. Under H.R. 4926, health insurers will no longer be shielded from legal accountability for price fixing, dividing up territories among themselves, sabotaging their competitors in order to gain monopoly power, and other such anti-competitive practices.

When NC families are hurting, doing nothing really isn't an option for me. I've heard from thousands of neighbors in my district who are suffering under the current system. I receive calls, letters and emails on health care literally every day.

Sheila is a woman from Raleigh who fears she will suffer the same fate as her sister who died from asthma because she couldn't get coverage. Linda from Sanford is a nurse who's tired of insurance industry bureaucrats interfering with patient care. Nancy from Louisburg says she's not looking for a handout, just a fair playing field because everyone should be able to get insurance. Dan is a young man from Raleigh whose fiancé's coverage was denied when she got sick. Peggy from Rocky Mount wants affordable coverage for small business workers and the self-employed who pleads, "please don't let the insurance companies win this time." These are the voices of regular folks on North Carolina's Main Streets and country roads.

Mr. Speaker, making sure every American has access to affordable health insurance and high-quality health care is one of the most important challenges of our time. The health reform debate is about saving money and saving lives. At its core, health reform is all about ensuring that American families and businesses have more choices, benefit from more competition, and have greater control over their own health care. Repealing this exemption is an important part of that effort. I urge my colleagues to join me in taking a stand for the American people.

HONORING KATHRYN “KAY” HIRE,
MOBILE’S ASTRONAUT

HON. JO BONNER

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 25, 2010

Mr. BONNER. Madam Speaker, on Sunday night, the six-member crew of the Space Shuttle *Endeavor* returned to the Kennedy Space Center in Florida after 14 days in Earth orbit. Aboard the STS-130 was Mission Specialist Kathryn “Kay” Hire, Mobile, Alabama’s first astronaut.

A native of Mobile and a 1977 graduate of Murphy High School, Kay Hire epitomizes the ideal of service to her country. A 1981 graduate of the U.S. Naval Academy, Hire earned a Master of Science degree in space technology from the Florida Institute of Technology in 1991 while also serving as a Naval officer.

Over her military career, Hire has taken part in a wide range of missions, from oceanographic research to naval flight instructor. In 1993, she was the first female in the U.S. military to be assigned to a combat aircrew when she flew aboard a P-3 maritime patrol aircraft, taking part in Atlantic and Caribbean operations. She was recalled to active naval duty in support of Operation Enduring Freedom and Operation Iraqi Freedom as a member of the U.S. Naval Central Command staff. She later returned to reserve status and served as Commanding Officer of the Navy Reserve Space and Naval Warfare Systems Command.

She transferred her duties to NASA in 1989. She was selected for astronaut training in 1994, reporting to the Johnson Space Center in Houston. In 1998, she first entered space aboard the Space Shuttle *Columbia* on mission STS-90, logging over 381 hours above the Earth. Aboard the *Columbia*, Hire spent 16 days in space and took part in 26 life science experiments focusing on the effects of microgravity on the brain and nervous system.

While on the just-completed *Endeavor* Mission, Hire traveled to the International Space Station where the *ISS* and *Endeavor* crew took part in the final major construction project for the orbiting space station—the installation of the “Tranquility” module. The new addition to the space station will house life support systems for the *ISS* and offers a breathtaking seven-pane “bay window” in space view of planet Earth.

Madam Speaker, I join the people of South Alabama in welcoming Kay Hire back down to Earth, and in expressing our pride for her service in our military and space programs. She is a tremendous role model for our youth. For those who seek examples of real heroes in our society, one need not look any further than Kay Hire, Mobile’s astronaut.

OBAMA ADMINISTRATION HOLDING
WRONG SUMMIT

HON. LAMAR SMITH

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 25, 2010

Mr. SMITH of Texas. Madam Speaker, the President’s health care summit today was too little, too late: the Administration has already released its health care proposal without consulting Republicans.

Instead of a summit on health care, we should have a summit on job creation, or a summit on cutting spending and reducing the deficit, or a summit on lawsuit abuse reform, or a summit on not treating terrorists like common criminals.

The Administration’s health care plan raises premiums, increases taxes and cuts Medicare benefits for seniors, according to the non-partisan Congressional Budget Office. It’s no wonder 67 percent of Americans now want Congress to start over on health care.

Instead of defying the wishes of Americans, the Administration should address the 15 million people who are unemployed, the millions more who have given up on finding a job, and specifically the 17 percent unemployment rate in the black community.

The Administration should listen to the American people, not hold a six-hour photo-op on the wrong subject.

HONORING FRED THOMAS

HON. MARIO DIAZ-BALART

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 25, 2010

Mr. MARIO DIAZ-BALART of Florida. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor one of our outstanding community leaders, Fred Thomas of Immokalee, Florida. Mr. Thomas truly embodies the ideals of service, selflessness and leadership.

For 16 years, Mr. Thomas served as the Executive Director of the Collier County Public Housing Authority, and during his tenure, significantly increased public housing in Immokalee, a farm-worker community in rural Southwest Florida. Though he retired from public service in 2002, he has continued his activism and involvement in the community.

No one knows Immokalee better than Mr. Thomas, who is known by friends and neighbors as the unofficial mayor. He dedicates each day of his life to advancing the needs of his community and ensuring that Immokalee thrives. He is a selfless community leader and answers the call of duty not for recognitions or merits, but because of a true love for his town and a desire to see it prosper.

Originally from New York, Fred has been a proud resident of Immokalee for more than two decades and enjoys much of what Florida has to offer, like hunting and fishing. He is also a talented and recognized photographer, always capturing Florida’s unique wildlife and pristine environment. He is married to wife Cheryl, a well-respected and beloved leader in her own right.

Mr. Thomas is a passionate advocate for Immokalee and an eloquent voice for his country. He often frequents commission meetings and speaks out on behalf of his neighbors and the needs of Immokalee residents. His professional and business affiliations include: Commissioner of the Immokalee Water and Sewer District, Chairman of the Citizens Advisory Committee of the Collier County Municipal Planning Organization, Vice-Chairman of the Immokalee Enterprise Zone Board, Chairman of the Immokalee Community Development Advisory Board, Collier County Sheriff’s Commission, Board of Directors of Immokalee Chamber of Commerce, Member of the Immokalee Rotary and Member of the

Immokalee Optimist. Most recently, in 2009, he was appointed by Governor Charlie Crist to serve as a Board Member of the South Florida Water Management District’s Big Cypress Basin.

As we celebrate Black History Month, please join me in thanking Fred Thomas, and his wife Cheryl, for their invaluable service and contributions to the southwest Florida community and their leadership, which makes a difference in the lives of many each day.

NATIONAL MANUFACTURING
STRATEGY ACT OF 2010

HON. DANIEL LIPINSKI

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 25, 2010

Mr. LIPINSKI. Madam Speaker, I am pleased to be introducing today the National Manufacturing Strategy Act of 2010. I would like to especially thank the 27 members of Congress who have joined me in supporting this bipartisan bill.

While our Nation reaps enormous benefits from a strong domestic manufacturing base, it is increasingly clear to me that we need a coherent and forward-looking plan for supporting America’s manufacturers. I believe that by requiring the President to develop and submit to Congress a National Manufacturing Strategy every four years, we can ensure the government is doing all it can to ensure this vital industry is able to succeed. Manufacturing is too important for us to continue to manage it in an ad hoc, unplanned fashion.

Currently, Federal, State and local governments interact with and strive to support manufacturing in their own ways. Unfortunately, these efforts are too often reactive, uncoordinated, and stovepiped within agencies and jurisdictions. What we need instead is an approach that is coordinated, proactive, and fulfills both short- and long-term goals to improve our manufacturers’ international competitiveness.

My bill would require the President to closely consult with industry leaders and stakeholders in undertaking a far-reaching analysis of factors related to domestic manufacturing, its workforce, research and development, investment, the defense industrial base, and other related areas. Based on this analysis, the President shall develop a National Manufacturing Strategy that includes specific goals and recommendations for improving the manufacturing sector’s competitiveness. Importantly, my bill will establish a Manufacturing Strategy Board. This advisory group of experts in manufacturing, innovation, and the workforce will provide the President advice and guidance on manufacturing issues, both specific to the development of the Strategy, as well as on a regular, continuous basis.

I very much appreciate the support, feedback and guidance that my office has received from a wide range of individuals and organizations during the development of this bill. Individuals from the AFL-CIO Industrial Union Council, National Defense Industry Association, American Iron and Steel Institute, National Council for Advanced Manufacturing, Aerospace Industry Association, Center for American Progress, and the U.S. Department of Commerce, among others, have provided

valuable comments and suggestions that helped us produce a better bill. I want to thank everyone who took the time to assist us with this important effort.

Fundamentally, this bill is simple. Manufacturing is crucial to our economy and our middle class, to our national security, and to our ability to satisfy our domestic needs with domestically produced goods. It only makes sense that we have a sound plan for how the government can best help the private sector succeed. I believe that a National Manufacturing Strategy will help us accomplish that, and I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting this bill, and doing the absolute best that we can to support manufacturing in America.

COMMEMORATING THE 117TH ANNIVERSARY OF PAYNE CHAPEL A.M.E. CHURCH IN WEST PALM BEACH, FLORIDA

HON. ALCEE L. HASTINGS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 25, 2010

Mr. HASTINGS of Florida. Madam Speaker, I rise today to commemorate the 117th anniversary of the founding of Payne Chapel A.M.E. Church in West Palm Beach, Florida, an institution that is as old as the city itself.

The theme of this year's celebration is "Enhancing the dream; bright hope for tomorrow". Payne Chapel was the dream of Ed Walstine, Philip Akery, Bell Jones, Susan Gee Cook, Margaret Akery, D. Jones, and Haley Mickens, who were strongly determined to prepare the way for carrying out "The Great Commission" of preaching and witnessing for Christ. They founded their church, known as Bethel, in January of 1893. It was a pioneer era, and the first church was established in "The Styx", now Palm Beach. The first trustees were J.J. Gordon, D.J. Jones, and Philip Akery.

In 1894, under the pastorate of Rev. T.W. Wilson, the church's name was changed from Bethel to Payne Chapel in honor of Bishop Daniel A. Payne. Payne Chapel was built at Banyan and Tamarind Avenue, under the pastorate of Rev. A.S. Simms, 1894–1895. During the pastorate of Rev. M.T. Carey, 1910–1914, the church's parsonage was built. Rev. S.W. Adair organized the first rally for the new Payne Chapel A.M.E. Church between 1917 and 1920. It was Rev. E.J. Jackson who purchased the present site and laid the foundation between 1922 and 1923. In 1924, Rev. S.W. Adair was again appointed pastor and began work on the new church.

In 1928, a hurricane completely destroyed the old church on Banyan Street. The first Sunday in January 1929, services resumed in the basement of the "New Church on the Hill". Over the years, many additions were made to Payne Chapel under the pastorate of different reverends to complete the New Church. The main auditorium was dedicated in 1937, new pews were added in 1942, and the church was cleared of all indebtedness in 1948. During the pastorate of Rev. H. McNeal Harris, 1963–1966, the present parsonage was built, and under Rev. Stephen M. Peck, 1969–1981, the church was completely air conditioned.

Between 1981 and 1987, land was purchased for two parking areas, the church of-

fice, pastor's study, and Christian Education Office were erected in the lower auditorium, and the lounges were completely renovated.

In 1988, the New Genesis was instituted under the leadership of Shepherd W.J. Jackson. The church underwent a series of renovations and restoration, including new paint inside and out, safety guard doors, a new roof, pews, furniture, lighting, carpeting, state-of-the-art sound system, piano, organ, and tiling. Furthermore, the mortgage was liquidated and another parking area and additional property around the church were purchased.

In November 2002, Bishop John Hurst Adams assigned Rev. Samuel E. Sullivan to Payne Chapel. Under his pastorate, Payne Chapel underwent further renovation and debts on the roof and organ were liquidated. During the 2004–2005 hurricane season, the church and parsonage sustained major wind and water damage. Payne Chapel's keepers worked hard to restore it to its former magnificent grandeur. The church's interior was gutted and treated for mold and mildew, and carpeting, pews, and other furnishing and equipment were replaced.

On December 2, 2007, Bishop McKinley Young assigned Rev. Milton Broomfield to pastor Payne Chapel into the future. I am certain that Payne Chapel can look forward to great things under Rev. Broomfield's leadership.

Madam Speaker, from 1893 to 2008, 30 pastors, 24 presiding elders, 36 bishops, and three assistant pastors have served Payne Chapel A.M.E. Church. Payne Chapel is more than a building; it is a living testament to the community that built it. As we celebrate the 117th anniversary of its founding and remember the untold numbers of dedicated people who have contributed to making the church what it is today, tomorrow is indeed bright and hopeful.

COMMEMORATING THE 16TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE KHOJALY TRAGEDY

HON. MICHAEL E. McMAHON

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 25, 2010

Mr. McMAHON. Madam Speaker, I rise to commemorate the 16th anniversary of the Khojaly tragedy, when on February 25–26, 1992, the town of Khojaly in the Nagorno Karabagh region of Azerbaijan was brutally attacked by Armenian forces. The town of Khojaly, which was home to 7,000 people, was completely destroyed; a total of 613 people were killed, of which 106 were women and 83 were children, and 56 of whom are purported to have been killed with extreme cruelty and torture. Additionally, 1,275 were taken hostage, 150 went missing; 487 people became disabled, 76 of whom are teenagers; 8 families were wiped out; 25 children lost both of their parents, and 130 children lost one of their parents.

Sadly, Khojaly, a town in the Nagorno-Karabakh region of Azerbaijan, now under the occupation of Armenian forces, was the site of the largest killing of ethnic Azerbaijani civilians.

According to Human Rights Watch and other international observers, the massacre

was committed by the ethnic Armenian armed forces, reportedly with the help of the Russian 366th Motor Rifle Regiment.

As part of the population tried to escape the town of Khojaly, they encountered violent ambushes and were murdered. According to the Russian organization, Memorial, 200 Azerbaijani corpses were brought from Khojaly to Agdam within four days, and it was discovered that they were subjected to abuses, torture and mutilation. Human Rights Watch stated that "we place direct responsibility for the civilian deaths with Karabakh Armenian forces."

At the time, Newsweek Magazine reported: "Azerbaijan was a charnel house again last week: a place of mourning refugees and dozens of mangled corpses dragged to a makeshift morgue behind the mosque. They were ordinary Azerbaijani men, women and children of Khojaly, a small village in war-torn Nagorno-Karabakh overrun by Armenian forces on 25–26 February. Many were killed at close range while trying to flee; some had their faces mutilated, others were scalped."

Time Magazine stated "While the details are argued, this much is plain: something grim and unconscionable happened in the Azerbaijani town of Khojaly 2 weeks ago. So far, some 200 dead Azerbaijanis, many of them mutilated, have been transported out of the town tucked inside the Armenian-dominated enclave of Nagorno-Karabakh for burial in neighboring Azerbaijan. The total number of deaths—the Azerbaijanis claim 1,324 civilians have been slaughtered, most of them women and children—is unknown."

Members of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe, PACE, from Albania, Azerbaijan, and the United Kingdom stated in May 2001 in Written Declaration No. 324 that the "Armenians massacred the whole population of Khojaly and fully destroyed the town."

Khojaly was the first significant Azerbaijani settlement overrun by Armenian forces in the region of Nagorno-Karabakh. The forces next overran the Nagorno-Karabakh districts of Zangilan, Gubadli, Fuzuli, Aghdam, and Kalbajar, as well as the towns of Shusha and Lachin. Altogether, the occupied territories represent roughly 20 percent of the territory of Azerbaijan. And, altogether roughly one million Azerbaijanis were evicted from their homes over the course of the Armenian-Azerbaijan war.

Madam Speaker, this is not the ringing condemnation that the survivors of Khojaly deserve but it is an important first step by an international community that has too long been silent on this issue. Congress should take the next step and I hope my colleagues will join me in standing with Azerbaijanis as they commemorate the tragedy of Khojaly. The world should know and remember.

INTRODUCTION OF IMPROVING COMPACT-IMPACT ASSISTANCE FOR EDUCATION

HON. MADELINE Z. BORDALLO

OF GUAM

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 25, 2010

Ms. BORDALLO. Madam Speaker, I rise today to introduce H.R. 4695, a bill to expand the Federal Impact Aid program to reimburse schools for the costs of educating students

from the Freely Associated States, FAS, residing in the United States, including the territories. Impact Aid was originally authorized by the Elementary and Secondary Education Act in 1965 to compensate local school districts for the costs of educating federally connected children. Examples of these kinds of students include those whose parents live on military bases, live on Indian lands, or are the children of accredited foreign diplomats. However, the Impact Aid program does not compensate local schools for the costs incurred by educating students from the FAS.

The United States entered into the Compacts of Free Association with the Republic of the Marshall Islands, the Federated States of Micronesia, and the Republic of Palau and under the Compacts, citizens of these countries can enter the United States without a visa. Thus, children whose parents are citizens of the FAS are in schools in the States and territories under a special immigration category and are federally connected just as children of military families are similarly federally connected. This legislation would provide a means for the Federal Government to provide assistance to impacted local education authorities.

Madam Speaker, the economic downturn has forced many local school districts to cut education budgets. This is a longstanding issue for affected jurisdictions and they need this to be redressed now more than ever. I would like to thank Mr. ABERCROMBIE, Mr. FALOMAVAEGA, Mrs. CHRISTENSEN, Mr. HONDA, Mr. SABLAN, and Mr. PIERLUISI for joining with me as original cosponsors. I will work with these cosponsors to pass this bill during the 111th Congress.

TRIBUTE TO CONGRESSMAN
SONNY CALLAHAN—2009 “MOBIL-
IAN OF THE YEAR”

HON. JO BONNER

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 25, 2010

Mr. BONNER. Madam Speaker, I rise to congratulate my dear friend and predecessor, former Congressman Sonny Callahan, for being selected as 2009 Mobilian of the Year by the Cottage Hill Civitan Club.

To the people of South Alabama, Sonny needs no introduction. He has dedicated much of his life to serving our area. A Navy veteran and a self-made local business success, Sonny has never known a time when he was not giving back to his community.

First elected to public office representing Mobile in the Alabama House of Representatives in 1971, Sonny embarked on a journey that took him to the Alabama State Senate and eventually to Washington, DC, where he labored in this House for no less than 18 years.

He quickly made a name for himself in these Halls, earning the gavel of one of the 13 subcommittee chairmanships on the House Appropriations Committee after only 10 years in office. He was named chairman of the powerful Subcommittee on Foreign Operations in 1995, protecting America's interests and investments around the world.

In 2000, he became the chairman of the House Appropriations Subcommittee on En-

ergy and Water Development. In this position, Sonny worked closely with the Bush Administration to develop and finance a new national energy policy.

While chairman of this subcommittee, he also served as vice chairman of Foreign Operations and was a member of the Transportation Subcommittee.

In an era of stark partisanship that too often divides this Chamber, Sonny Callahan knew only friends as he served in Congress. His ability to reach out across the aisle won him universal praise and enabled him to accomplish much for his district and the State of Alabama.

After retirement from Congress in 2003, Sonny has refused to settle down into a quiet life of leisure. In addition to work in his own government consulting firm, Sonny was named by Governor Bob Riley to serve on the Alabama Port Authority Board. In 2004, Sonny was named Patriot of the Year by local veterans groups, and in 2005, the Boys and Girls Clubs of Mobile named its Theodore activity center the Sonny Callahan Boys and Girls Club Building.

I wish to personally congratulate Sonny Callahan for having received the honor of “Mobilian of the Year,” and on behalf of the people of South Alabama, I thank Sonny, his wife, Karen, and their children and grandchildren, for their continued service and dedication to the state and the people we so dearly love.

HONORING GALVESTON
BUSINESSES

HON. RON PAUL

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 25, 2010

Mr. PAUL. Madam Speaker, on March 4th, the Galveston Chamber of Commerce will hold its 164th annual meeting. Established by the Ninth Congress of the Republic of Texas in 1845, making it the oldest chamber of commerce in Texas, the Galveston Chamber of Commerce works to promote and advocate for the business community of Galveston.

At the March 4th meeting, the Galveston Chamber of Commerce will honor 32 Galveston businesses who have served the Galveston Community for 100 years or longer. The Port of Galveston, which has been in operation since 1825, is the oldest business in the community.

It is truly a remarkable achievement that these 32 businesses kept their doors open through several hurricanes, tropical storms, recessions, and the Great Depression.

I certainly agree with Gina Spagnola, president of the Galveston Chamber of Commerce, who said “Our business community is the lifeblood of our community, and we must continue to welcome, appreciate, encourage, support and protect them.”

Madam Speaker, it is a tremendous pleasure to join my friends at the Galveston Chamber of Commerce in saluting these businesses for their years of service to the people of Galveston. I am truly honored to serve as their representative and hope all my colleagues all join me in congratulating these outstanding businesses. I have attached a list of the names of the businesses that will be honored

on March 4 and the date that the companies were established.

Del Papa Distributing Company, 1910; Moody National Bank, 1907; American National Insurance Company, 1905; Biehl & Company, 1905; Rosenberg Library, 1904; Malloy & Son Funeral Home, 1902; Fred Hartel Company, 1900; Galveston Country Club, 1898; the Grand 1894 Opera House, 1894; and Stewart Title, 1893.

Galveston Insurance Associates, 1892; University of Texas Medical Branch, 1891; Galveston Independent School District, 1884; AT&T, 1878; The Children's Center, Inc., 1878; Mt. Olive Missionary Baptist Church, 1876; Frost Bank, 1874; Grace Episcopal Church, 1868; J. Levy & Termini Funeral Home, 1868; Galveston County Medical Society, 1865; and Texas Gas Service, 1856.

Ott Monument Works, 1854; First Evangelical Lutheran Church, 1850; Mills Shirley LLP, 1846; Galveston Chamber of Commerce, 1845; Gal-Tex Pilots Service Corporation, 1845; Galveston County Daily News, 1842; Trinity Episcopal Church, 1841; First Baptist Church, 1840; Moody Memorial First United Methodist Church, 1838; City of Galveston, 1837; Port of Galveston, 1825.

IN TRIBUTE TO REPRESENTATIVE
JOHN P. MURTHA OF PENNSYLVANIA

SPEECH OF

HON. ALAN B. MOLLOHAN

OF WEST VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 24, 2010

Mr. MOLLOHAN. Madam Speaker, I join my colleagues today to express my deep sadness at the passing of our colleague, Jack Murtha.

As I look around the Floor of the House this evening, I see Democrats and I see Republicans. I see veteran members of the so-called “Pennsylvania corner” and I see freshmen members—from California, from the northeast, from the south. I see Jack's fellow appropriators, and I see members who, on other days perhaps, boast proudly of never seeking earmarks. Jack Murtha was one of the few members of this body who could draw together such an eclectic group.

That is not a surprise—for Jack Murtha was truly a man of the House. He was a Member's Member. He cared about his colleagues, and he respected his colleagues—even when he thought they were wrong. Being able to disagree civilly has—to the great detriment of our public life—become an uncommon quality in Washington. Jack practiced it better than anyone.

Jack was a legislator. His ability and willingness to work with almost anyone was one of the reasons Jack was so effective—if you're a Democrat and wanted something done, you wanted Jack on your side. If you're a Republican and wanted something done, you wanted Jack on your side.

Jack was a Representative. He loved his District, respected his constituents, and worked as hard for them as any Member ever has.

Jack was an institutionalist. He believed in this House of Representatives, he defended its prerogatives, and he protected them. It has been my great privilege to work closely with

two of the greatest defenders Congress has ever seen—the senior Senator from my own state . . . and Jack Murtha.

Jack was a leader. His respect for his colleagues and his commitment to this House informed his role as Chairman. Jack recognized the importance of what we do here, and Jack was always—always—prepared. There was never a man more suited to the gavel than Jack Murtha.

Jack was a Marine. If he had not been a Marine, he could have played the part—the man radiated strength and purpose in every action he took. But Jack not only looked the part, he was the genuine article. And there is, of course, no such thing as a former Marine—once a Marine, always a Marine. As fiercely as Jack defended the prerogatives of Congress, his commitment to our House took a back seat to his commitment to men and women in uniform. The service member—an infantryman outside Fallujah, a Marine in Afghanistan, an airman in Bagram, a sailor in the Persian Gulf—has never had a better protector than Jack Murtha. Jack was one of them.

That is the chief reason he didn't hesitate when he came out so publicly against the War in Iraq—something that earned him the respect of many and the enmity of some. I don't know that he didn't care about either judgment, but I do know that neither applause nor condemnation guided his decision at all. His allegiance was to the men and women in the field.

To me, Jack was a friend and a mentor. In a sense that was a relationship I inherited. My

father, who represented West Virginia's First District until he retired in 1982, worked closely with Jack. Shortly after I won election to his seat, Dad told me that I would never go wrong seeking Jack's counsel. He was right.

Finally, Jack was a family man, a loving husband and partner to his wife, Joyce, and parent to Donna, John, and Patrick. Their loss cannot be described by words. They have my deepest condolences.

Jack will be missed by all.

HONORING PASTOR WALTER
THOMAS RICHARDSON

HON. MARIO DIAZ-BALART

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 25, 2010

Mr. MARIO DIAZ-BALART of Florida. Madam Speaker, today I rise to honor one of the most devoted and beloved leaders in South Florida, Dr. Walter Thomas Richardson, whose dedication to God, his faith and his community has allowed him to break social barriers and touched thousands of lives.

Since 1983, Pastor Richardson has served as Senior Pastor of Sweet Home Missionary Baptist Church in Perrine, Florida and his preaching has enriched the faith and lives of many. He is a Miami native, married to M. Dolores, father to Walter L. and LaKisha, and proud grandfather of seven. His family has played a key role in his development as pastor and community leader. He learned of the im-

portance of community service at a young age, from his parents, Bishop Walter H. and Mrs. Poseline M. Richardson and in 1969, while serving in the military, felt a calling for the ministry. His education has also played an important role in his formation. He obtained both Bachelor and Master Degrees from St. Thomas University, and a Doctorate from Trinity Theological Seminary.

Pastor Richardson is a leading voice of social justice and multicultural integration. His congregation is formed by Native Americans, African Americans, Hispanics, Haitians and several Caribbean Islands among many other groups. His love of service has manifested itself in multiple ways. He is a professor of religion at St. Thomas University, Chaplain in the Miami-Dade Police Department, and Board Member of Florida Memorial College, New World School of the Arts, the Community Relations Board and the Alliance for Human Services, to name a few. He is also author of *Going through Samaria*, a book which teaches about the importance of Christianity, and had recorded 30 songs and composed more than 100. His unique service and leadership has gained him recognitions from the City of Miami, the City of Fort Lauderdale and National Association for the Advancement of Colored People.

As we celebrate Black History Month, I ask you to join me in honoring the work of Pastor Walter Thomas Richardson and thanking him for his service to our community. He has improved the lives of many.